



## **WALLACE DAM**



*Lake Oconee*

## **Study Report**

## **Recreation and Land Use**

## **Wallace Dam Hydroelectric Project FERC Project Number 2413**

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ac	acres
BMPs	Best management practices
COC	Chamber of Commerce
Commission	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Corps	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CSRA RC	Central Savannah River Area Regional Commission
CVIOG	Carl Vinson Institute of Government
DO	dissolved oxygen
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FS	U.S. Forest Service
ft	feet
GDNR	Georgia Department of Natural Resource
Georgia Power	Georgia Power Company
GORP	Georgia Outdoor Recreation Pass
Hwy	Highway
I-20	Interstate 20
MGRC	Middle Georgia Regional Commission
NEGRC	Northeast Georgia Regional Commission
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NF	National Forest
PAD	Pre-Application Document
PD	plant datum
PLP	Preliminary Licensing Proposal
RC	Regional Commission
RIR	Regionally Important Resource
RSP	Revised Study Plan
SCORP	State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
SD1	Scoping Document 1
SP	State Park
UGA	University of Georgia
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
WRD	Wildlife Resources Division

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A recreation and land use study was conducted for Georgia Power Company's (Georgia Power) Wallace Dam Hydroelectric Project (Wallace Dam Project, the Project) (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission [FERC or Commission] Project No. 2413) to characterize the effects of continued project operation on recreational opportunities at the Project, characterize existing recreational capacity and usage on Lake Oconee and in the Wallace Dam tailrace area; evaluate the adequacy of existing recreational facilities to meet current and future recreation demand, and to evaluate the adequacy of the existing Shoreline Management Program to address land use practices. The Project is located on the mainstem of the Oconee River in Hancock, Putnam, Greene, and Morgan Counties, Georgia. The study area included the project boundary and a zone around Lake Oconee extending 2,000 feet (ft) beyond the project boundary.

### **Existing Recreation Facilities**

Numerous public and private facilities provide direct access to the Project. These include seven Georgia Power project recreation facilities; six of the facilities are located on Lake Oconee and one is on the west shoreline of the tailrace area. All seven facilities include a day-use area; six provide boat ramps, picnic tables, and restrooms; three provide full service campgrounds and swimming beaches; and one provides a fishing platform. Four of the facilities provide year round access to the project area; three of which charge a day-use fee per vehicle. The three campground facilities are opened seasonally, typically from March or April through September or October. In addition to the existing recreation facilities, Georgia Power also owns and manages ten areas within the project boundary that are reserved for future recreational development. Three U.S. Forest Service (FS) recreation areas are located on Oconee National Forest (NF) lands north of Interstate 20 (I-20) and provide direct access to the northern-most reaches of Lake Oconee.

In addition to existing recreation facilities at Lake Oconee, there are extensive regional recreational opportunities within a 60-mile radius of the Project, including over 17 State Parks (SP), National Forests (NF), and Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) as well as three other Georgia Power Reservoirs and one U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) reservoir that offer similar recreational experiences. Lake Sinclair, a Georgia Power reservoir, is located immediately downstream of the Project and provides opportunities for fishing, camping, boating, and other recreational activities. Additionally, Lake Jackson to the west and Lake Juliette to the southwest (Georgia Power reservoirs), and J. Strom Thurmond Lake (Clarks Hill Lake) to the east, are approximately an hour's drive from the Project.

### **Current Recreation Use**

Recreation surveys were administered to a total of 166 recreation users at three Georgia Power Boat Ramps (Armour Bridge, Long Shoals Boat Ramp, and Sugar Creek Boat Ramp) during five survey events in March-June 2016. Twenty-three percent of users visiting the Georgia

Power boat ramps were from one of the four counties surrounding the Project (Hancock, Putnam, Morgan, and Greene). Of the users surveyed, 89 percent were from 24 counties ranging in geographic distribution from metro Atlanta, to the Athens area, Augusta, Macon-Warner Robins, and central Georgia. The five most common reasons cited by users for visiting the boat ramps were boat fishing, pleasure boating, tournament fishing, bank fishing, jet skiing, and shoreline relaxation. Additionally, during the same five survey events, 77 roving surveys were administered to bank anglers at 14 popular bank fishing areas on Lake Oconee. Of the 77 bank anglers surveyed, 36 percent were from either Hancock, Morgan, Newton, or Putnam counties. Estimated annual recreational use of Lake Oconee in 2015 (at all facilities on the lake) was approximately 605,000 visits, of which 471,900 were day-use visits and 133,100 were night-use visits. An estimated 169,247 visits, occurred at the seven project recreation facilities in 2015.

### **Future Recreational Needs Assessment**

Recent population projections published by the Governor's Office of Budget and Planning (GOPB, 2015) and developed by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG, 2015) at the University of Georgia (UGA) were used to project future recreational use. Growth in the 4-county region adjacent to the Project (Hancock, Putnam, Morgan, and Greene) is projected on a 5-year average decline of 3.2 percent. In contrast, the 24-county area representing approximately 89 percent of the Project's recreation users is projected to grow by 5 percent (2015 – 2020), 10 percent (2020 – 2030), 8 percent (2030 – 2040), and 7 percent between 2040 and 2050. Future recreational use is projected to increase by 33 percent to 805,019 visits in 2050. An evaluation of future demand indicates that the existing parking facilities at the Project have adequate capacity for current and future average use.

### **Project Land Use**

The predominant land uses in this portion of the upper Oconee River basin historically have been suburban or rural residential mix composed of low intensity urban, forested lands, and row crop/pasture lands. With the exception of limited pockets of urban land around Eatonton and Milledgeville, most of the lands around the Project, contain forest, row crop/pasture, or clearcut/sparse vegetation. Land use for the project boundary is primarily undeveloped and is either deciduous or evergreen forested, twelve percent of the total area, or forested wetlands, five percent of the total area. Less than two percent of the project lands are being used for low or high intensity urban purposes. Sixty-three percent of the lands within 2,000-ft of the Project are forested, while approximately 811 ac, or one percent, are on low or high intensity urban uses. The majority of these urban uses are clustered near the central portion of the reservoir along Lake Oconee Parkway (Georgia Hwy 44).

Georgia Power manages the shoreline of Lake Oconee under its Shoreline Management Guidelines. No residential structures are allowed on project lands within the project boundary. Landowners adjacent to the project boundary must sign a lease agreement before applying to

Georgia Power for a permit to construct shoreline structures. The guidelines list specific requirements and restrictions for any construction, renovation, tree removal, or land disturbance on Georgia Power land, as well as dredging activities. Georgia Power also manages the shoreline according to the applicable license articles, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Programmatic General Permits, and state and local regulations.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This report presents the findings of the Recreation and Land Use Study conducted for Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) relicensing of Georgia Power Company's (Georgia Power's) Wallace Dam Hydroelectric Project (Wallace Dam Project, the Project) (FERC No. 2413). This study was conducted according to the approved Study Plan for the Wallace Dam Project. The approved Study Plan consists of Georgia Power's Revised Study Plan (RSP) filed on November 24, 2015 (Georgia Power, 2015a), as approved by the Study Plan Determination issued by FERC on December 17, 2015 (FERC, 2015a). Georgia Power will use the information generated by this study to evaluate the environmental effects of its proposed action in the Preliminary Licensing Proposal (PLP), which will be filed with FERC by November 21, 2017.

The Wallace Dam Project is an existing 321.3-megawatt pumped storage project consisting of Wallace Dam, a powerhouse, and Lake Oconee. The Project is located on the Oconee River in Hancock, Putnam, Greene, and Morgan Counties, Georgia (Figure 1). Georgia Power operates the Wallace Dam Project using Lake Oconee as the upper reservoir. Lake Sinclair, located immediately downstream, serves as the lower reservoir. Georgia Power operates Lake Sinclair as the separately licensed Sinclair Hydroelectric Project (Sinclair Project) (FERC No. 1951). Georgia Power is not proposing to add capacity or make any major modifications to the Wallace Dam Project under the new license. The Project occupies about 370 acres (ac) of U.S. Forest Service (FS) lands within the Oconee National Forest (NF), which abuts Lake Oconee's northernmost reaches. The current license expires May 31, 2020.

Georgia Power proposes to continue operating the Wallace Dam Project as it is currently operated. The Pre-Application Document (PAD) describes the project facilities and current operations and summarizes information characterizing the affected environment (Georgia Power, 2015b). The PAD also includes the Wallace Dam Operations Primer as Appendix D. Scoping Document 1 (SD1) (FERC, 2015b) summarizes the environmental issues identified during FERC's public scoping process pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

### **1.1 Objectives**

The specific objective of the study was to develop information to characterize existing recreation and land use at the Project and to evaluate issues identified during FERC's public scoping process pursuant to NEPA and having a nexus with project operations.

The specific objectives of the study were to:

- Review existing information to describe existing recreation and land use in the Wallace Dam project area.



- Characterize the effects of continued project operation on recreational opportunities at the Project.
- Characterize existing recreational capacity and usage on Lake Oconee and in the Wallace Dam tailrace area.
- Evaluate the adequacy of existing recreational facilities to meet current and future recreational demand, including fishing tournaments at the Project.
- Evaluate the adequacy of the existing Shoreline Management Program to address land use practices, including erosion, and protect environmental resources within the project boundary.

## **1.2 Study Area**

The study area included the FERC project boundary extending around Lake Oconee and the Wallace Dam tailrace area, including the project recreation facilities and FS recreation areas next to Lake Oconee. It also included the four counties directly adjacent to the Project (Hancock, Putnam, Greene, and Morgan Counties) for future recreational demands analysis based on forecasted population growth.

The FERC project boundary around Lake Oconee encompasses the normal full pool elevation of 435-foot (ft) plant datum (PD)<sup>1</sup> and a fee-simple strip of land owned by Georgia Power around the entire shoreline (with the exception of FS lands) (Figure 2). The shoreline strip is generally 25-ft wide, with the exception of lands comprising the Oconee NF, and expands to widths of 100 or 200-ft across the reservoir from certain recreation areas (Georgia Power, 1971). The project boundary is measured as metes and bounds or elevation contour, depending on location around the reservoir. Larger land parcels define the project boundary in the areas of the project works, Georgia Power's public recreation facilities, and other areas reserved for recreation development. The project boundary extends downstream of Wallace Dam within Lake Sinclair approximately 1.3 river miles to the Georgia Highway (Hwy) 16 bridge. It extends downstream of Wallace Dam on the shoreline about 4.0 river miles as thin strips of land on each side of the narrow upper reach of Lake Sinclair. The project boundary downstream of the dam also encompasses three small waterfowl impoundments located in the floodplain adjacent to the channel within the Oconee Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

The FERC project boundary also includes a 230-kilovolt transmission line 15.67 miles long beginning at Wallace Dam, extending west, and terminating at a switching station in the vicinity of Eatonton, Georgia (Georgia Power, 2015b). The project transmission line was not included in the study area for the purposes of recreation and land use resources.

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<sup>1</sup> Plant datum = mean sea level (NAVD88) – 0.20 feet (+/- 0.01 feet).

There are approximately 4,442 ac of project lands inside the project boundary between the normal full pool elevation of 435-ft PD and the project boundary. These project lands include about 370 ac of FS lands within the Oconee NF along the Oconee River and Apalachee River embayments upstream of Interstate 20 (I-20) (Figure 2). Project lands provide a buffer for aesthetics, wildlife habitat, water quality protection, and recreation.

Georgia Power leases, at no cost, 5,375 ac in and adjacent to project lands to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR) for use as the Oconee WMA (Figure 1). The Oconee WMA is managed for waterfowl habitat, hunting, and other recreational purposes.

There are 4,427 parcels of land adjacent to the shoreline of Lake Oconee leased by individual residential property owners for lake access. No residences, residential outbuildings, or permanent structures, other than permitted shoreline structures, are allowed within the project boundary. Georgia Power manages the shoreline of Lake Oconee under its Shoreline Management Guidelines (Georgia Power, 2015c) to ensure compliance with the Wallace Dam FERC license and other applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

## **2.0 STUDY METHODS**

The study approach followed the approved Study Plan (Georgia Power, 2015a; FERC, 2015a) and consisted of the elements described below.

### **2.1 Review of Existing Information**

Existing recreation and land use in the study area were characterized based on a review of existing information sources. These included the FERC Form 80 Licensed Hydropower Development Recreation Report from 2015 and supporting data collection in 2014; Form 80 data from 2009; campground customer satisfaction surveys from 2011 and 2014; and campground visitation data. Existing information review also included FERC-approved comprehensive plans, regional recreation plans (Northeast Georgia Plan, Middle Georgia Plan, Central Savannah River Area Plan), Georgia Power Shoreline Management Guidelines, and population and employment projects. Regional recreational opportunities were identified by mapping major parks and lakes within a 60-mile (1-hr) driving radius of the project boundary.

### **2.2 Interviews with User Groups and Facility Providers**

Georgia Power solicited information on recreation facilities and access, use, and user perspectives from recreation user groups, recreation facility providers, law enforcement agencies, and other stakeholders. On May 23, 2016, Georgia Power mailed 42 questionnaires to individuals representing a total of 47 such entities. Stakeholders receiving the questionnaire included: FS; GDNr's Wildlife Resources Division (WRD); Georgia Power park hosts at campground/day use facilities; operators of private recreation facilities on Lake Oconee; angling clubs that use the lake for fishing tournaments; resorts; homeowner associations; businesses; law enforcement officers with WRD and Greene and Putnam Counties who patrol Lake Oconee; and others. Recipients were asked to complete and return the questionnaire by June 24, 2016. Follow-up telephone calls to non-respondents were made between July and September 2016 to encourage their completion of the questionnaire or to facilitate their input through interviews when possible. A total of 19 self-administered questionnaires and interviews were completed. The respondents included 11 user groups, 6 facility providers, and 2 law enforcement agencies.

### **2.3 Recreation Field Surveys**

Georgia Power conducted recreation surveys at three of its boat ramp day-use facilities during five days in 2016. The three Georgia Power boat ramps were Armour Bridge, Long Shoals Boat Ramp, and Sugar Creek Boat Ramp (Figure 2). The purposes of the on-site surveys were to assess recreational user satisfaction and to further characterize user trends, the origin of users, carrying capacity, competing uses, and the adequacy of the existing recreation facilities at these locations. In addition, roving surveys were administered to anglers using popular bank fishing areas along the shoreline on Georgia Power-owned lands on the same survey days.

Georgia Power's Oconee/Sinclair Land Management Office identified several popular and safely accessible bank fishing areas to visit during the roving survey effort. The purpose of the roving surveys was to characterize bank fishing access and user satisfaction relative to the potential demand for bank fishing improvements.

The recreation field surveys were conducted on five representative days during the spring and summer seasons. They included two weekdays (March 22, June 22), two weekend days (April 16, June 12), and the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend (May 28). The recreation survey effort on each day concentrated primarily on the three Georgia Power boat ramps, where all types of recreation users were approached and surveyed. The roving surveys primarily targeted bank anglers but a few boat anglers were also interviewed during the first two survey days; only bank anglers were surveyed during the remaining events. Two survey instruments, a Recreational Survey Form and a User Count Form, were used to collect project-related information during the recreation field surveys (see Appendix A).

All survey events were conducted during fair-weather conditions and lasted from 8 to 10 hours each. The survey events represented early morning and late afternoon/early evening recreational use periods. Two teams of two surveyors each administered the surveys during the weekday events. The weekday surveys were administered on a rotating basis between the boat ramps and bank fishing areas, depending on use. Four teams of two surveyors each administered the surveys during the weekend events. Three of the teams were dedicated to the boat ramps, while the fourth team roved among bank fishing areas throughout the survey day.

The surveyors interviewed users with a prepared questionnaire to collect information on group size, county of residence, and age-group of visitors, frequency and duration of visits, reasons for visiting, species fished for (if fishing), and qualitative ratings of existing facilities, including parking, boat ramps, docks, restrooms, facility cleanliness, and bank fishing access. Open ended questions were included to solicit feedback on specific improvements needed and other comments and suggestions. In addition, each survey team periodically counted parked vehicles, trailers, boats, shoreline anglers, and other users, and recorded notes about recreation activities.

## **2.4 Annual Recreation Use**

Annual recreation use of the project reservoir was estimated by analyzing data collected by Georgia Power in 2014 for the development of the 2015 Form 80 and updating the estimate for 2015 based on observed growth in local population and attendance records. The detailed methods used by Georgia Power in developing the Form 80 values are described in Section 5.0 along with the adjustments made based on review of Land Management staff attendance records, changes in population of the 4-county project vicinity, findings from the 2016 recreation surveys, and staff observations. Important sources of recreational use information developed by Georgia Power include monthly records of day and overnight recreation visitation for Lawrence Shoals, Old Salem, and Parks Ferry Parks, which include

campgrounds, and monthly records of day use at the three boat ramps Armour Bridge, Long Shoals Boat Ramp, and Sugar Creek Boat Ramp.

### **3.0 EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES**

Numerous public and private facilities provide recreational access to Lake Oconee and the tailrace area immediately downstream of Wallace Dam, as shown in Figure 2. These include Georgia Power project recreation facilities, FS recreation areas, and a wide variety of commercially operated marinas and boat ramps spread around the shoreline of the lake. Table 1 lists these facilities, their total area and area within the project boundary, and the types of recreation amenities they provide. Georgia Power also owns and manages several areas within the project boundary that are reserved for future recreational use (Figure 3).

The following sections describe the Georgia Power project recreation facilities, the Georgia Power lands reserved for future recreational use, the FS recreation areas on Lake Oconee, regional opportunities for water-based recreation within an hour's drive of the Project, and potentially relevant state and regional resource management plans that may be applicable to recreation in the project area.

#### **3.1 Project Recreation Facilities**

Georgia Power owns and operates seven project recreation facilities that provide for a variety of recreational opportunities (Figure 2, Table 1). Six of the facilities are located on Lake Oconee, and one is on the west shoreline of the tailrace area. All seven facilities include a day-use area; six provide boat ramps, picnic tables, and restrooms; and three provide full-service campgrounds and swimming beaches.

##### **3.1.1 Armour Bridge**

Armour Bridge is a 10.72-ac boat-ramp facility located on the Richland Creek embayment within Reynolds Lake Oconee, a gated resort community, in Greene County (Figure 4). The entire facility is located within the project boundary. Open year-round, Georgia Power charges a day-use fee of \$5 per vehicle at the Lake Club Guard House, which controls public access to this part of the resort community. Armour Bridge provides a two-lane boat ramp, one boat dock, shoreline access for fishing, picnic tables, a restroom, and 40 parking slots for vehicles with boat trailers.

##### **3.1.2 Long Shoals Boat Ramp**

Long Shoals Boat Ramp is a 12.06-ac facility located on the southern main-stem portion of Lake Oconee in Putnam County (Figure 5). The site is located entirely within the project boundary. Open year-round, Georgia Power charges a day-use fee of \$5 per vehicle using an honor box payment system at the park entrance. Long Shoals Boat Ramp provides a two-lane boat ramp, one boat dock, shoreline access for fishing, picnic tables, a restroom, and 34 parking slots for vehicles with boat trailers, including one handicapped accessible slot.

### **3.1.3 Sugar Creek Boat Ramp**

Sugar Creek Boat Ramp is a 10.39-ac facility located on the Sugar Creek embayment in Putnam County (Figure 6). The facility is located entirely within the project boundary. Open year-round, Georgia Power charges a day-use fee of \$5 per vehicle using an honor box payment system at the park entrance. Sugar Creek Boat Ramp provides a two-lane boat ramp, one boat dock, shoreline access for fishing, picnic tables, a restroom, and 37 parking slots for vehicles with boat trailers, including one handicapped accessible slot.

### **3.1.4 Lawrence Shoals Park**

Lawrence Shoals Park is an 83.58-ac facility located just west of Wallace Dam, a short distance from Georgia Hwy 16 in Putnam County (Figure 7). The park is located entirely within the project boundary and consists of a campground and day-use area. The park is open from March 1 through Labor Day. It offers a full service campground, including recreational vehicle (RV) parking slots, picnic tables, playgrounds, and restrooms. The park has about 62 total campsites. Additionally, the park has day-use areas that include large-capacity overlook picnic pavilions, a two-lane boat ramp, three boat docks, picnic tables, a swimming beach, restrooms, and nature trails. The park has 68 parking slots (30 slots at the boat ramp) including one handicapped accessible slot at the boat ramp. Fees charged at the park entrance, which is staffed by a Georgia Power park host, are \$20 per night for RV camping, \$18 per night for tent camping, and \$5 per vehicle for day-use activities.

### **3.1.5 Old Salem Park**

Old Salem Park is an 83.34-ac facility located in the middle section of Lake Oconee, south of Georgia Hwy 44 in Greene County (Figure 8). The park is located entirely within the project boundary and consists of a campground and day-use area that are open from March 1 through October 30. Old Salem Park offers a full-service campground, including RV parking slots, restrooms, and a playground. The park has about 92 total campsites. The day-use amenities also include a large-capacity picnic pavilion, a two-lane boat ramp, three boat docks, picnic tables, a swimming beach, and restrooms. Old Salem Park includes 123 parking slots including one handicapped accessible slot at the boat ramp. User fees charged at the entrance by the Georgia Power park host are \$20 per night for RV camping, \$18 per night for tent camping, and \$5 per vehicle for day-use activities.

### **3.1.6 Parks Ferry Park**

Parks Ferry Park is a 90.98-ac facility located toward the upper section of Lake Oconee just south of I-20 in Greene County, Georgia (Figure 9). The park is located entirely within the project boundary. It consists of a campground and day-use area that are open from late April through Labor Day. Parks Ferry Park provides a full service campground, including RV parking slots, restrooms, and a playground. The park has about 53 total campsites. Other day-use amenities include a large-capacity overlook picnic pavilion, a two-lane boat ramp, one boat

dock, picnic tables, a swimming beach, an outdoor sports area, and restrooms. Parks Ferry Park includes 74 parking slots including one handicapped accessible slot at the boat ramp. User fees charged at the entrance by the Georgia Power park host are \$20 per night for RV camping, \$18 per night for tent camping, and \$5 per vehicle for day-use activities.

### **3.1.7 Tailrace Fishing Area**

The Tailrace Fishing Area is located in the vicinity of the Georgia Hwy 16 bridge over the Oconee River about 0.4 mile downstream of Wallace Dam. The site is contiguous to the Wallace Dam tailrace in the headwaters of Lake Sinclair (Figure 10). The facility offers tailrace fishing access from the bank. It includes an unpaved road and parking area and a shoreline fishing platform. Only the shoreline platform is located within the project boundary, which in this area includes a thin strip of land along the shoreline.

## **3.2 Project Lands Reserved for Future Recreational Use**

Georgia Power's Recreation Plan for the Wallace Dam Project currently includes the following ten areas within the project boundary reserved for future recreation development (Figure 3):

- Area A-1: a 138-ac tract located on a peninsula formed by the confluence of Richland Creek and the Oconee River in Greene County (Figure 11). The area is heavily forested with pine and hardwood. The land slopes are slight to moderate from several upland ridges to the water.
- Area A-2: a 465-ac tract located at the confluence of Sugar Creek and the Oconee River in Putnam and Morgan Counties (Figure 12). The area is heavily forested, predominately with pine, and the slope of the land is from slight to moderate.
- Tract B: a 561-ac area next to Lawrence Shoals Park in Putnam County that Georgia Power conveyed to the State of Georgia (Figure 7). The area includes undeveloped shoreline and associated buffer and a unique granite outcropping (Eatonton Outcrop) that supports two federally protected plant species. It also contains several miles of multi-use and foot trails that connect with Lawrence Shoals Park and the Rock Hawk Effigy and trail system located outside of, and partly inside of, the project boundary.
- Area B-3: a 107-ac tract located on the Apalachee River in Greene County approximately 0.5 river mile below U.S. Hwy 278 (Figure 13). The area is heavily forested with hardwood and pine and the slope of the land is moderate.
- Area B-5: a 106-ac tract located on a peninsula formed by the confluence of Richland Creek and Rocky Creek tributaries in Greene County (Figure 14). The area is heavily forested with pine and hardwood and the slopes are slight to moderate.



- Area C-2: a 9-ac tract located on Lick Creek at Georgia Hwy 44 in Putnam County (Figure 15).
- Area C-4: an 8-ac tract located on the Apalachee River in Greene County (Figure 16). The area is moderately forested with pine and hardwood.
- Area C-5: a 10-ac tract located on the Oconee River at Georgia Hwy 44 in Greene County (Figure 17). The site is moderately forested with pine and hardwood.
- Area C-6: a 5-ac tract located on Richland Creek at Georgia Hwy 44 in Greene County (Figure 18).
- Area C-7: a 9-ac site located on Beaverdam Creek approximately two miles above its confluence with Richland Creek in Greene County (Figure 19).

### **3.3 Forest Service Recreation Areas**

The FS Oconee Ranger District owns and operates three recreation areas located on Oconee NF lands north of I-20. The FS recreation areas are located within the Redlands WMA (discussed in further detail in Section 3.4.3) and provide direct access to the northern-most reaches of Lake Oconee. They offer motorized boating access at eight boat lanes and extensive parking facilities including over 100 parking slots (FS, 2014a, b; FS, 2016). The FS recreation areas are described in greater detail below.

#### **3.3.1 Dyar Pasture Recreation Area**

Dyar Pasture Recreation Area is a 241.08-ac area located off of Copeland Road in Greene County (Figure 20). The recreation area provides access to the upper reaches of Lake Oconee including the Oconee River upstream. The recreation area charges a user fee and provides an unimproved parking area, two-lane boat ramp, boat dock, picnic facilities, shoreline access for fishing, nature trails, and restroom. Additionally, Dyar Pasture Recreation Area includes a 60-ac water conservation wetland within the Wallace Dam project boundary, offering opportunities for wildlife viewing (FS, 2016). Approximately 100 ac of the recreation area are located within the project boundary. The boat ramp, boat dock, and shoreline are within the project boundary, while the parking and additional recreation amenities are outside the project boundary.

#### **3.3.2 Redlands Recreation Area**

Redlands Recreation Area is a 1,393.69-ac site located off of U.S. Hwy 278 in Greene County (Figure 21). The recreation area provides access to the upper reaches of Lake Oconee north of I-20. The recreation area charges a user fee and provides a parking area, three-lane boat ramp, boat dock, picnic facilities, shoreline access for fishing, and restroom (FS, 2014a). Of the 1,393.69 ac, 23.27 ac are located within the project boundary. The boat ramp, boat dock, and

shoreline are within the project boundary, while the parking and additional recreation amenities are outside the project boundary. Redlands Recreation Area includes 100 parking slots for vehicles with boat trailers.

### **3.3.3 Swords Recreation Area**

Swords Recreation Area is a 314.87-ac site located off of Blue Springs Road in Morgan County (Figure 21). The recreation area provides access to the upper reaches of Lake Oconee north of I-20 including the Apalachee River embayment. The recreation area charges a user fee and provides a parking area, three-lane boat ramp, boat dock, picnic facilities, shoreline access for fishing, and restroom (FS, 2014b). Of the 314.87 ac, 2.35 ac are located within the project boundary. The boat ramp, boat dock, and shoreline are within the project boundary, while the parking and additional recreation amenities are outside the project boundary. Swords Recreation Area includes 100 parking slots for vehicles with boat trailers.

## **3.4 Regional Recreation Opportunities**

This section provides an overview of other major recreation destinations within a 60-mile radius of the Wallace Dam Project that provide similar recreational opportunities. Over 17 SPs, NFs, and WMAs are located within an hour's drive of the Project (Table 2), as well as three other Georgia Power reservoirs and one U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) reservoir that offer similar recreation experiences. The Wallace Dam project is located neither within nor adjacent to any lands designated as being considered for federal or state protection via programs such as the National Wild and Scenic River system, National Trails system, or Natural Wilderness Preservation system.

### **3.4.1 Georgia Power Reservoirs**

#### ***Lake Sinclair***

Sinclair Dam, located about 30 river miles downstream and south of Wallace Dam, forms Lake Sinclair, a 15,330-acre reservoir with 417 miles of shoreline in Baldwin, Hancock, and Putnam Counties. Lake Sinclair serves as the lower reservoir for the pumpback operations at Wallace Dam. Georgia Power operates Lake Sinclair as part of the Sinclair Project. Lake Sinclair is a popular regional destination for fishing, boating, camping, and other recreational activities. Numerous boat ramps are located at the 20 recreation facilities (day-use parks, marinas, and campgrounds) around Lake Sinclair, including five owned and operated by Georgia Power (2016a) (Table 3). Ten of the recreation facilities provide a boat ramp and 15 charge a day-use fee. Table 3 lists the recreation amenities provided at the Georgia Power facilities, commercial marinas, and other parks around Lake Sinclair. While many people visit the lake to boat and camp, the parks offer a variety of other recreation facilities including fishing piers, fish attractors, hiking trails, swimming beaches, and picnic shelters for individuals or groups.

### ***Lake Jackson***

Lake Jackson is a 4,750-ac reservoir located about 45 miles west of the Project in Jasper, Newton, and Butts Counties, Georgia. Georgia Power operates Lake Jackson as part of the Lloyd Shoals Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2336). Lake Jackson is situated at the confluence of the Yellow, Alcovy, and South Rivers, and provides opportunities for fishing, camping, boating and other recreational activities. There are eight day-use areas, campgrounds, or marinas on Lake Jackson, three of which are operated by Georgia Power (2016b).

### ***Lake Juliette***

Lake Juliette is a 3,600-ac reservoir located about 57 miles southwest of the Project in Monroe County, Georgia. It is operated by Georgia Power (not a hydropower reservoir) and maintained in cooperation with GDNR. Lake Juliette is situated along Rum Creek and provides opportunities for fishing and viewing natural scenery and abundant wildlife. Lake Juliette is strictly a fishing lake and boats with engines greater than 25 horsepower and personal water craft are prohibited. The Dames Ferry Public Use Area, situated on the southeastern end of the reservoir, is a day-use area operated by Georgia Power that provides a two-lane boat ramp, restrooms, and picnic tables (Georgia Power, 2016b).

### **3.4.2 J. Strom Thurmond Lake (Clarks Hill Lake)**

J. Strom Thurmond Lake, also known as Clarks Hill Lake, is a 71,000-ac Corps reservoir located about 50 miles east of the Wallace Dam Project. J. Strom Thurmond Lake is situated along the Georgia-South Carolina border on the Savannah, Broad, and Little Rivers. It extends 39.4 miles up the Savannah River, 29 miles up the Little River, and 6.5 miles up the Broad River in Georgia, and 17 miles up the Little River in South Carolina (Corps, 2016). The lake has 1,200 miles of shoreline that provide numerous and diverse opportunities for fishing, boating, camping, and other recreational activities. There are 61 access points on the lake, 35 of which are operated by the Corps (2015). The recreation access points offer a variety of activities including, boating, fishing, camping, hiking, swimming, hunting, and picnicking. The numerous recreation facilities on the lake make it one of the top 10 most visited Corps sites in the nation (Corps, 2016). These facilities include three day-use areas, four campgrounds, one SP, one county park, and one commercial marina.

### **3.4.3 Oconee National Forest**

The 116,731-acre Oconee NF is comprised of two major areas, one north of I-20 around the upper end of Lake Oconee and one approximately 45 miles to the southwest (Figure 1) in eight Georgia counties. As part of the 867,000-acre Chattahoochee-Oconee NF, the Oconee NF offers premier opportunities for hunting, wildlife viewing, and a variety of warmwater fishing experiences on streams and lakes (FS, 2004). As a Category 1 Urban National Forest (less than 1 hour from more than 1 million people), many users focus on day-trip outings for hiking,

picnicking, driving for pleasure, observing wildlife, or visiting historic sites. Oconee NF provides numerous recreation sites, including camping sites, picnic units, boat launches, shooting ranges, hunt camps, trailheads, interpretive sites, equestrian trails, and trails for dirt bikes and four-wheelers.

#### **3.4.4 Wildlife Management Areas**

Four WMAs are located in the project vicinity within 60 miles. The Oconee WMA is located near Wallace Dam at the intersection of Greene, Hancock, and Putnam counties. The Redlands WMA is on Oconee NF lands north of I-20. Both the Redlands and Oconee WMAs have lands within the project boundary (Figure 2). The Cedar Creek WMA is located on Oconee NF lands southwest of the Project and the City of Eatonton, while the B.F. Grant WMA is located directly west of the Project in Putnam County. These four WMAs are described below.

##### ***Oconee Wildlife Management Area***

The Oconee WMA consists of 5,375 ac owned by Georgia Power and leased to GDNr at no cost and is managed for waterfowl habitat, hunting, and other outdoor recreation, with 150 ac reserved as the Dan Denton Waterfowl Refuge (GDNr, 2013a). The Oconee WMA surrounds the Wallace Dam and tailrace area at the intersection of Greene, Hancock, and Putnam counties (Figure 2). Most of the WMA is located east of Wallace Dam in Hancock and Greene Counties. This eastern portion in Greene County includes a check station, camping, and handicapped access, as well as managed dove fields that provide both quota and walk-in hunting opportunities.

The Oconee WMA on the west side of Wallace Dam is located directly adjacent to Lawrence Shoals Park in Putnam County. The WMA includes most of the Rock Hawk Effigy and trail system, all of future recreation development area Tract B (Section 3.2), and other lands along the west side of Lake Sinclair (Figure 2). In partnership with the Historic Piedmont Scenic Byway Commission and GDNr, Georgia Power maintains over 15 miles of hiking and biking trails and interpretive signage within and adjacent to the Oconee WMA. The Rock Hawk Effigy itself is located on lands owned by the University of Georgia (UGA) outside of the WMA and the FERC boundary.

Downstream of Wallace Dam, the Oconee WMA contains three waterfowl impoundments on the west side of the Oconee River (Lake Sinclair) (Ponds 1, 3, and 4) and one waterfowl refuge on the east side of the river (Pond 2). Ponds 2, 3, and 4 are located within the Wallace Dam project boundary. Pond 1 is outside of the project boundary. Although not located directly within the WMA, GDNr maintains a boat ramp at the south border of the WMA on the east side of the Georgia Hwy 16 bridge, referred to as the Hancock County Public Boat Ramp (Atlantic Mapping, 2015). This ramp provides boating access to the Wallace Dam tailrace area and upper end of Lake Sinclair, as well as bank fishing opportunities.

### ***Redlands Wildlife Management Area***

The Redlands WMA is located on Oconee NF lands north of I-20. The Redlands WMA is comprised of 37,500 ac providing various recreation opportunities including hunting, camping, hiking, picnicking, canoeing, horseback riding, and bicycling. Additionally, the FS Oconee Ranger District provides motorized boating access and extensive parking facilities at three sites in the Redlands WMA: Dyar Pasture, Redlands, and Swords Recreation Areas. As mentioned previously, these FS sites provide eight boat launches and over 100 parking slots (FS, 2014a, b; FS, 2016).

### ***Cedar Creek Wildlife Management Area***

Cedar Creek WMA is located on Oconee NF lands to the west of Highway 441 in Jasper, Jones, and Putnam Counties. The 39,223-acre WMA offers hunting for deer, turkey, small game, and dove. Additionally, there are nature trails and opportunities for bird watching, fishing, wildlife viewing, hiking, camping, and river access. Cedar Creek also offers a firearm range.

### ***B.F. Grant Wildlife Management Area***

B.F Grant WMA is located to the west of Highway 441 in Jasper, Jones, and Putnam Counties and just north of Cedar Creek WMA. This 11,400-acre area provides hunting opportunities for deer, turkey, small game, and waterfowl. Other activities available include bird watching, fishing, river or water body access, wildlife viewing, hiking and camping. Nature trails allow for bicycling, camping, horseback riding, and picnicking.

### ***Economic Contributions of Wildlife Management Areas***

GDNR commissioned a study of Georgia's WMAs to estimate county-level and statewide activity and to assess the total economic contributions of recreational visits to WMAs (Southwick Associates, Inc. and Responsive Management, 2014). A database of current hunting licensees with a WMA hunting privilege and a database of Georgia Outdoor Recreation Pass (GORP) holders defined the target WMA user group for analysis. From this population of potential WMA users, a target population of 2,400 individuals was randomly drawn for a phone survey. The survey was conducted only with individuals who had hunted or otherwise recreated on a Georgia WMA within the past year. Respondents were asked about the number of days they visited each WMA in the past year, the types of recreational activities in which they engaged, including hunting and/or other outdoor activities, and the amount of money they spent for specific goods and services. The sampling plan was designed to ensure a 95-percent level of confidence and results that accurately reflected the demographic and geographic composition of WMA license and GORP holders at the statewide level.

The activity most frequently participated in at WMAs by both residents and nonresidents on a state-wide basis was hunting, and this was largely a function of the population on which the analysis focused. The next most popular outdoor recreational activities at WMAs were fishing,

hiking, target shooting, picnicking, and canoeing/kayaking. Within the population of hunting license holders with WMA privileges or GORP holders, WMA visitation was estimated as follows at the five WMA units either adjacent to Lake Oconee (Oconee and Redlands WMAs) or within 60 miles:

- Oconee WMA: 6,025 participants spent 71,329 visitor days
- Dyar Pasture Unit of Redlands WMA: 147 participants spent 1,061 visitor days
- Redlands Unit of Redlands WMA: 8,880 participants spent 94,387 visitor days
- B. F. Grant WMA: 3,065 participants spent 25,569 visitor days
- Cedar Creek: 11,408 participants spent 115,403 visitor days

WMA visitation positively impacts the economy at the county level. Spending by WMA visitors includes items such as lodging, food, fuel, and recreation-related accessories. Spending estimates near WMA's by residents in the four counties surrounding the Project were: \$2,746,606 for Putnam County; \$2,016,879 for Greene County; \$1,121,509 for Morgan County; and \$275,297 for Hancock County (Southwick Associates, Inc. and Responsive Management, 2014).

### **3.4.5 State Parks**

Nine state parks (SPs) offering a variety of water-based and non-water based recreation activities are located within 60 miles of the Wallace Dam Project (Table 2). Hard Labor Creek SP is a 5,804-acre park located approximately 27 miles northwest of the Wallace Dam Project in Morgan County. This SP offers opportunities for boating, fishing, and swimming at two lakes as well as hiking, picnicking, and horseback riding (GDNR, 2016). Camping around Hard Labor Creek SP includes 20 cottages, 48 combination tent and trailer sites, all with water and electrical hookups, eleven campsites situated adjacent to the available horse stalls, and two group camps, which can accommodate groups of 85 and 120 (GDNR, 2016). Hard Labor Creek SP also offers an 18-hole public golf course.

### **3.4.6 National Wildlife Refuge**

Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge is located to the west of Cedar Creek WMA and consists of 34,955 acres in Jones and Jasper Counties, Georgia. The refuge provides numerous sites for hiking, recreational fishing, and wildlife observation. The refuge contains over 200 species of birds, 45 mammals, 14 amphibians, 41 reptiles, and many fish species. (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS], 2010) Piedmont NWR has approximately 35 miles of permanent creeks/streams. Piedmont NWR had 50,000 visitors in 2007. Most recreation visits were for hunting and fishing. About 65 percent of recreation visits were undertaken by visitors that live more than 30 miles from the refuge (USFWS, 2010).

### **3.5 Relevant Resource Management Plans**

#### **3.5.1 FERC Approved Comprehensive Water Plans**

Section 10(a)(2)(A) of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. § 803(a)(2)(A), requires the Commission to consider the extent to which a project is consistent with Federal or State comprehensive plans for improving, developing, or conserving a waterway or waterways affected by the Project. The Commission grants Section 10(a)(2)(A) comprehensive plan status to any Federal or State plan that: (1) is a comprehensive study of one or more of the beneficial uses of a waterway or waterways; (2) specifies the standards, the data, and the methodology used; and (3) is filed with the Secretary of the Commission.

The Commission currently lists 33 comprehensive plans for the State of Georgia (FERC, 2016). Table 4 lists 15 of these comprehensive plans that potentially could be applicable to project recreation and land use. The following section discusses the most recent and directly relevant comprehensive plan, the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) of Georgia.

#### ***State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan***

The Georgia SCORP for 2014-2016 identifies the issues facing Georgia's outdoor recreation providers, identifies trends that will help to chart a positive course forward, and outlines Georgia's priority focus for the investment of federal Land and Water Conservation Funds (GDNR, 2013b). It calls for cooperative action that targets municipal and county recreation departments as well as to state and federal agencies and even quasi-public private service providers. The pending 2017-2022 SCORP assessment will include a robust public engagement process, identify key trends in outdoor recreation, and update supply data based on a geographic information system inventory assessment tool currently being piloted.

Analysis of data from the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment found walking for pleasure, family gatherings, gardening or landscaping, viewing or photographing natural scenery, and attending outdoor sporting events to be the five most popular recreation activities for adult Georgians. The National Kids Survey found that playing or hanging out outside, land-based sports, and physical activities like biking, jogging, or walking were the primary recreation activities engaged in by children. This survey revealed that a strong majority (more than 57 percent) of children play outside more than two hours every day (GDNR, 2013b). The 2014-2016 SCORP notes that Georgia's priority for the expenditure of federal assistance funds will be to attend to the existing pressing needs of the state's current outdoor recreation facilities. Next it prioritizes the development of outdoor recreation facilities that are able to meet the needs of a changing demography, to help recreation providers generate revenue and ensure financial sustainability, and to continue to refine Georgia's priorities for the acquisition of critical outdoor recreation areas in the future.

### **3.5.2 Regional Plans**

This section describes the regional recreation plans reviewed to identify current and future recreation needs for the project area. These plans include the 2035 Future Plans for the three recreational regional commissions (RCs) representing the four counties (Hancock, Greene, Putnam, and Morgan) in the project vicinity. The three RCs are the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC), Middle Georgia Regional Commission (MGRC), and the Central Savannah River Area Regional Commission (CSRA RC).

#### ***Northeast Georgia Plan 2035***

The Northeast Georgia Plan 2035, applicable to Greene and Morgan counties, describes Lake Oconee and the Apalachee River as Regionally Important Resources (RIRs) with potential for development conflicts due to their overlap with potential “Developed” and “Developing” Character Areas (NEGRC, 2011). The plan notes that the region’s Desired Development Patterns include facilities for bicycles, including bikeways or bike lanes, parking racks as well as the preservation of environmentally sensitive areas by setting them aside as public parks, trail corridors, or greenbelts (NEGRC, 2012).

#### ***Regionally Important Resources Plan, Middle Georgia***

The Middle Georgia Regionally Important Resources Plan (MGRC, 2010) applicable to Putnam County, describes Lake Oconee and the Oconee River as RIRs with potential for development conflicts (MGRC, 2010). The plan notes that the area surrounding Lake Oconee is becoming covered by impervious surfaces as a result of rapid residential and commercial development, threatening the water quality of Lake Oconee. In addition, the Oconee River is vulnerable to both urban runoff and rapid growth and development upstream. The plan notes that the region’s General Policies and Protection Measures include development of new land development ordinances designed to protect RIRs as well as the preservation of environmentally sensitive areas by setting them aside as public parks, trails, or greenbelts.

#### ***Central Savannah River Area Plan 2035***

The Central Savannah River Area Plan 2035, applicable to Hancock County, describes the Oconee WMA and Lake Sinclair as RIRs with potential for development conflicts. The Plan notes that Hancock County has areas of significant disinvestment, levels of poverty, and/or unemployment substantially higher than average levels for the region as a whole. It emphasizes the importance of timber to Hancock County with forest lands representing just over 90 percent, 267,000 ac, of the County’s total area (CRSA RC, 2011).



## **4.0 CURRENT RECREATIONAL USE**

### **4.1 Recreation Surveys**

This section presents the findings of the five recreation surveys completed at Armour Bridge, Long Shoals Boat Ramp, and Sugar Creek Boat Ramp in March-June 2016. Section 4.2 (Bank Fishing) summarizes the results of the roving surveys conducted during the same events. Of the 166 unique recreation users surveyed at the three Georgia Power boat ramps, 46 percent were from the Sugar Creek Boat Ramp, 34 percent were from the Long Shoals Boat Ramp, and 20 percent were from Armour Bridge (Table 5). The largest number of surveys (52) was administered on Saturday, May 28, the Memorial Day holiday weekend. The survey response trends and other findings are summarized in the following sections. A summary of user suggestions for recreation facility improvements is provided in Appendix B.

#### **4.1.1 Origin of Users**

The origin of the users of the three Georgia Power boat ramps was identified via vehicle tag observations recorded on the User Count Form and the first question on the Recreation Survey Form, which asks the county and state of origin. Table 6 summarizes these responses which indicate that 23 percent of those surveyed came from one of the four counties surrounding the Project. Of the users surveyed, the highest percentage came from Putnam County (10 percent) followed by DeKalb County (8 percent) and Morgan County (8 percent). The top 12 counties totaled 68 percent of the users surveyed. These counties ranged in geographic distribution from metro Atlanta (DeKalb, Henry, Rockdale, and Walton), to the Athens area (Barrow and Walton), Macon-Warner Robins (Houston), Augusta (Columbia), and nearby counties along I-20 between Greensboro and Atlanta (Jasper and Newton). The next nine counties represented 18 percent of the users surveyed. These counties included metro Atlanta (Fulton and Gwinnett), the Athens area (Oconee), and nearby Baldwin County and central Georgia (Bibb, Jones, and Laurens).

#### **4.1.2 User Composition and Reasons for User Visits**

The average party size visiting the Georgia Power boat ramps varied from 2.68 at Sugar Creek to 3.82 at Long Shoals. The overall average party size was 3.08, with the holiday average being higher at 4.55. The most common reasons cited by users for visiting the boat ramps in March-June 2016 were boat fishing, pleasure boating, tournament fishing, bank fishing, jet skiing, and shoreline relaxation (Table 7). Almost half of all survey respondents (47 percent) noted that boat fishing was the primary reason for their recreation visit. Pleasure boating was the second most commonly reported reason for visiting the boat ramps (13 percent). Tournament fishing was the third most oft-cited reason (9 percent), with relatively even representation among the three boat ramps.

Bank fishing was the second most commonly cited reason for visits to Sugar Creek Boat Ramp (13 percent), where a relatively open day-use area is available along the shoreline (Figure 6).

Shoreline relaxation was also a common reason for visits at Sugar Creek. In contrast, none of the users surveyed at Armour Bridge were there for bank fishing or shoreline relaxation, where there is less open area available along the shoreline for such activities (Figure 4). Bank fishing was reported by 5 percent of the users at Long Shoals Boat Ramp (Figure 5).

#### **4.1.3 Duration and Frequency of Visits**

On an average day, users spent approximately 6.5 hours per visit (not including overnight use) (Table 8). Park visits to the Long Shoals Boat Ramp tended to be the shortest, averaging 5.7 hours, while the maximum average trip, 13.6 hours, occurred at Armour Bridge on Memorial Day weekend (n=11). Memorial Day weekend also had the longest overall average visit at 7 hours (n=52). The users surveyed averaged 4.3 trips per month to Georgia Power boat ramps (Table 8). Armour Bridge experienced the most frequent visits (4.9 per month) while those accessing Long Shoals averaged 4.0 visits per month.

#### **4.1.4 Other Parks/Lakes Frequented**

Almost half, 44 percent, of the visitors interviewed responded that Lake Oconee is their primary recreation destination (Table 9). Lake Sinclair was the most oft-cited other location, frequented by approximately 17 percent of the project users. An additional 7 percent of those surveyed frequented Lake Jackson, Clarks Hill Lake, or other parks and lakes.

#### **4.1.5 User Ratings of Existing Facilities**

Survey respondents were asked to rate the bank fishing access, boat ramp, cleanliness, dock, parking, and restrooms at each of the three Georgia Power boat ramps as “good,” “fair,” or “poor.” Table 10 summarizes their responses by feature, location, and then overall. User ratings for bank fishing access are discussed in Section 4.2 (Bank Fishing) for consistency. Each of the boat ramps was consistently rated “good” (87 percent overall) with no respondents rating them as “poor.” Parking was overwhelmingly rated either “good” or “fair” by at least 97 percent of those responding. The only “poor” responses were provided with regards to the parking at the Sugar Creek Boat Ramp (4 percent). While the majority of respondents found the cleanliness of the facilities to be “good” (81 percent overall), 15 percent of those surveyed rated cleanliness as “fair” or “poor.”

Ratings for the dock and restroom facilities show some modest room for improvement. The docks provided by the Georgia Power boat ramps were rated as “good” by 68 percent of respondents overall, but 23 percent of users found them to be in “fair” or “poor” condition. Fifteen percent of those using Armour Bridge rated its dock as “poor.” Less than half, 48 percent, of respondents rated the restrooms as “good” overall, while 18 percent rated them as “fair” and 9 percent as “poor.”

#### **4.1.6 Improvements Desired by Users**

Survey respondents were also asked if they had specific suggestions for improvements or comments about the access points. Appendix B provides a complete list of their responses. Where possible, these comments were grouped into common categories, listed in Table 11. The most frequently noted improvements desired by users were:

- An additional or improved boat dock – this was the most frequently noted improvement representing 12 percent of all suggestions. Armour Bridge in particular received 10 user comments to this effect.
- The addition of a new restroom or improvements to the existing restroom at Long Shoals and Sugar Creek – this was the second most common suggestion (6 percent overall).
- An additional or improved boat ramp – suggested by 5 percent of those commenting overall and made more frequently at Long Shoals and Sugar Creek.
- Additional or improved parking – suggested by 5 percent of those commenting and made only in reference to Long Shoals and Sugar Creek.

Suggestions relating to facility maintenance, improved lighting, and the prevention of fishing from boat ramps each represented 4 percent of the total.

#### **4.2 Bank Fishing**

This section presents the findings of the roving surveys completed at popular bank fishing areas on Lake Oconee on the five survey days in March-June 2016. The purpose of the roving surveys was to characterize bank fishing access and user satisfaction relative to the potential demand for bank fishing improvements. The survey response trends and other findings are summarized below. A summary of user suggestions for recreation facility improvements related to bank fishing is provided in Appendix B.

Figure 22 shows the locations of the most popular bank fishing locations within the project boundary identified by Georgia Power's Oconee/Sinclair Land Management staff and the subset of those bank fishing locations where users were surveyed during the roving surveys. Roving surveys were administered to 77 recreation users, mainly bank anglers, at 14 locations around the project reservoir and tailrace (Table 5).

The roving surveys found that 36 percent of respondents originated from either Hancock, Morgan, Newton, or Putnam counties (Table 12). Eight percent came from Walton County, and 6 percent each came from DeKalb and Greene Counties.

Overall, the duration of the bank fishing visits was comparable to that of other users with visitors averaging 5.6 hours per visit (Table 13). However, those users interviewed at Dyar Pasture Recreation Area and Old Salem Park tended to stay longer on average, 11 hours (n=5) and 7.3 hours (n=13), respectively.

Recreation users accessing the Tailrace Fishing Area averaged 4.6 visits per month with an average stay of 4.8 hours (Table 13). Bank anglers averaged 3.1 visits per month to the Project with average visitation being higher in early spring.

Survey respondents were asked to rate the bank fishing access at each of the Georgia Power boat ramps as “good,” “fair,” or “poor” (Table 10). Of the 44 percent of total users responding to this question, 28 percent rated the bank fishing as “good,” 5 percent rated it as “fair,” and 2 percent rated it as “poor.” Table 14 summarizes the responses to the same question when posed to the roving survey respondents. Similarly, only 49 percent of those surveyed provided a response. Thirty-eight percent found the bank fishing to be “good” overall, 9 percent rated it “fair,” and 2 percent rated it “poor.”

Roving survey responses rating the parking at bank fishing areas were highly variable. In general, the vast majority of respondents engaged in bank fishing at developed recreation facilities, such as Old Salem Park, Parks Ferry Park, and Swords Recreation Area, rated the parking as “good.” However, parking at informal, undeveloped bank fishing access locations, such as those along U.S. Hwy 278 and Georgia Hwy 16 tended to rate lower. For example, 33 percent and 67 percent of the respondents at U.S. Hwy 278 at Oconee River and U.S. Hwy 278 at Apalachee River, respectively, rated the parking as “fair.”

Bank anglers were asked if they had specific suggestions for improvements or comments about the bank fishing areas. Appendix B provides a complete list of their responses. The most frequently noted improvements desired by users were:

- Bank Fishing Access/Fishing Piers – this was a frequently noted improvement representing 11 percent of bank angler suggestions. This user suggestion was noted at 7 of the 14 bank fishing areas surveyed. Five users suggested maintaining vegetative overgrowth to provide better bank fishing access. Three users requested additional bank fishing specific areas on the lake and two users suggested docks and piers exclusively for bank fishing.
- Installation of restroom facility or improvement to existing restroom where present – this was a frequently noted improvement representing 11 percent bank angler suggestions. The Hancock County Boat Ramp (GDNR Ramp) in particular received five user comments to this effect.

- Improved lighting was the next most common user suggestion representing 9 percent of all user suggestions. The Hancock County Boat Ramp (GDNR Ramp) received five user comments to this effect and the Tailrace Fishing Area received two comments.
- Additional Trash Cans/Trash Pickup was also a frequently suggested improvement representing 6 percent of bank angler suggestions. Highway 44 at Lake Oconee East Bank in particular received four comments to this effect.

### **4.3 Campground Surveys**

Georgia Power performed customer satisfaction surveys of its campground customers in 2011 and 2014. The 2014 survey was distributed to all campground visitors between July 4th and September 1st as they arrived at each campground and collected via a designated drop box. A total of 398 completed surveys were collected. The survey asked users about the reservation and check-in processes, the quality of camping and restroom facilities, park cleanliness, their treatment by the park hosts, how the facility compares to other parks in the state, what can be done to make future visits more enjoyable, and other related questions.

The majority of campground users noted that the registration processes are easy, the park/restrooms are clean, park hosts are courteous and respectful, and camping facilities meet their needs at the Wallace Dam Project. The primary recommendations from the survey related to improving the cleanliness of the restroom facilities at Lawrence Shoals and Parks Ferry and keeping the parks open later into the year (i.e. October/November). The percentage of visitors agreeing that the restrooms are clean was 58 percent at Parks Ferry Park and 64 percent at Lawrence Shoals Park, compared to 85 percent at Old Salem Park. Roughly 4 out of 10 visitors surveyed at all Georgia Power campgrounds would like the parks to remain open after September. Old Salem Park currently remains open through October, while Lawrence Shoals and Parks Ferry Parks remain open through Labor Day.

Visitors to Lawrence Shoals Park, compared to visitors at Old Salem Park, were more likely to say that Georgia Power parks are about the same as other parks in the state (45 percent of respondents). The majority of visitors surveyed at Parks Ferry Park (53 percent) also said the park was about the same as others in the state but the sample size was small. In contrast, a majority of visitors to Old Salem Park (58 percent) responded that Georgia Power parks are better than others in the state, and only 20 percent said they were about the same.

Customer comments from the campground surveys are tracked, evaluated for feasibility and cost, and acted upon by the Georgia Power Parks Committee and the respective office managers on an ongoing basis. Follow-up actions may include construction, maintenance, and other capital operational improvements to enhance the quality of the experience. For example, customers at Old Salem Park responded very positively to improvements, which have included restroom replacements, made between the 2011 and 2014 surveys. Another example of user

follow-up actions by Georgia Power is the addition of playgrounds to Lawrence Shoals Park in 2011, and more recently to Old Salem Park.

Other improvements made by Georgia Power to the originally developed campground and boat ramps have included the following:

- Adding restrooms and picnic areas to boat ramp sites
- Upgrades to campground restrooms and bathhouses
- Additional campsites within campgrounds
- Improved playground and beach areas
- Upgraded water and electric service at campgrounds to accommodate larger recreational vehicles

#### **4.4 User Group and Facility Provider Interviews**

A total of 19 self-administered questionnaires and interviews were completed. Tables 15 through 17 summarize the interview responses from 11 Lake Oconee user-group representatives, 6 facility providers/managers, and 2 law enforcement agencies. Appendix C provides the complete interview documentation.

The user groups interviewed included two bass fishing clubs (three representatives), four property or homeowners associations, two waterfront businesses, and two local business associations (Table 15). Their interview responses are summarized below:

- Fishing clubs: Lake Oconee Bassmasters, Inc. and Lake Oconee Anglers use Lake Oconee for bass fishing tournaments about four to ten times per year each. Positive attributes of the lake important to these groups are good quality fishing, a healthy fish population, boat ramps in favorable locations, and safe conditions, including that boating hazards are well marked. An attribute of the lake cited as discouraging their members' use was too much boat traffic between Memorial Day and Labor Day. According to Lake Oconee Anglers, summer pumpback operation eliminates the thermocline and negatively affects fishing. Both groups perceive the quality of existing access and/or facilities on the lake to be good or adequate. Lake Oconee Bassmasters made suggestions for additional access and facilities including: a public boat ramp in the Richland Creek arm not on Reynolds Plantation, a large tournament-fishing boat ramp on the lake, and improved handicapped accessibility of restrooms and boat ramps. Neither fishing club reported its members accessing the Wallace Dam tailrace area.
- Property/homeowners associations: Members of these groups reside on or near Lake Oconee and use it for fishing, boating, other water activities, and enjoying its scenic

beauty. Positive attributes of the lake important to their members include consistent water levels, the ability to boat, fish, and swim, and clean property. One group observed that brown coloration of the water due to runoff may discourage some people from swimming. These groups perceive the existing access and facilities on Lake Oconee to be adequate, good, or very good. None mentioned additional access and/or facilities that would benefit their use of the lake.

- Waterfront businesses: The Lodge on Lake Oconee (hotel) and Bone Island Grillhouse (restaurant) provide docks for their patrons. Positive attributes of Lake Oconee important to their business include water sports, fishing, scenery, and waterfront access. They view existing access and/or facilities on the lake to be adequate or good. The Lodge on Lake Oconee suggested that the availability of tours on the lake could benefit their patrons' use of the lake.
- Local business organizations: The Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce and Lake Country Board of Realtors promote Lake Oconee as an economic engine and recreational resource for the community and region. Positive attributes of the lake important to their interests include: its natural beauty and cleanliness; constant water levels; the availability of fishing, boating, water sports, and parks; real estate opportunities; and hydro generation. Both organizations perceive the existing recreation access and/or facilities to be good or excellent. Suggestions for additional access and facilities included more public access points and easier boat launches.

The facility providers interviewed were the FS Oconee Ranger District, GDNR's WRD, two privately owned marina/boat launch facilities, and Georgia Power park hosts for Lawrence Shoals and Old Salem Parks (Table 16). Their interview responses included the following:

- FS: The Oconee Ranger District provides public lake access for fishing, boating, camping, and picnicking in the Lake Oconee upstream of I-20. Other primary uses include hiking and wildlife viewing. The majority of their recreation users come from Greene, Putnam, Jasper, Morgan, and Jones Counties. Attributes of Lake Oconee that are important to their users are clean facilities with lake visibility, boater access, and designated fishing areas.
- GDNR: WRD provides access to over 7,000 ac of WMA with facilities that include a static archery range, primitive campgrounds, and multi-use trails. The primary reasons for recreation visits are hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, archery, mountain biking, and hiking. Peak visitation occurs during hunting season (September to May). Most recreation users come from Greene, Hancock, and Putnam Counties. Attributes of Lake Oconee important to their users are the availability of wildlife habitat and fish habitat. WRD also manages three waterfowl impoundments downstream of Wallace Dam that are used for waterfowl hunting and wildlife viewing.

- Private marina/boat launch facilities: Blue Springs Marina, Inc., and Jones Petroleum Company provide boating access, boat storage, fuel, bait and tackle, convenience stores, and/or camping for recreation users of Lake Oconee. Both facilities are open for use by the public and charge a \$5 ramp fee. Attributes of Lake Oconee most important to their customers include good fishing, steady lake levels, clean water, and other recreational activities. Blue Springs Marina identified underwater trees and boat damage as an attribute of the lake discouraging customers from using their access. Jones Petroleum Company lacks dock space to accommodate all customers.
- Georgia Power park hosts: The primary reasons cited by park hosts for recreation visits to Lawrence Shoals and Old Salem Parks include camping, fishing, boating, hiking, picnicking, and swimming (the questionnaire was not completed by the Parks Ferry park host). The recreational amenities available, operating hours, and fees are described for each park in Section 3.1. The attributes of Lake Oconee most important to park customers include good fishing, cleanliness of facilities, and easy access.

The law enforcement agencies interviewed were the Greene County Sheriff and the Putnam County Sheriff (Table 17). The sheriffs identified the primary reasons for recreation visits to Lake Oconee to include boating, fishing, camping, and bird watching. The peak season of use is summer, generally from Memorial Day to Labor Day. They report that recreation users come not only from the surrounding counties but also from metro Atlanta and the Athens-Clarke County area. The positive attributes of Lake Oconee most important to recreation users include its accessibility, proximity to metro Atlanta, large area, consistent lake levels, and overall cleanliness and pristine visual aesthetics. Attributes tending to discourage use are few, the main one being boat traffic and boating behavior on holidays and weekends. The Greene County Sheriff reported that many people fish off of bridges, which can be dangerous, and suggested that the provision of good parking and safe access in a well-kept area would be welcome. The Putnam County Sheriff has not observed much recreational use of the Wallace Dam tailrace area and believes the current recreation access there is adequate.

#### **4.5 Annual Use Estimates**

As allowed by FERC, Georgia Power has utilized a variety of recreational use sampling methods over time to generate the Form 80 Recreation Report for Wallace Dam, depending on the technology and data sources available at the time. The 2009 Form 80 annual use estimate presented in the PAD (712,000 daytime visits and 315,000 nighttime visits) was based on attendance records (60 percent), staff observations (30 percent), and 10 percent by estimating. Georgia Power's approach to the 2014 Form 80 represented a change in methods to integrate traffic count/trail count data (30 percent) and additional estimating (20 percent), with less dependence on attendance records (30 percent) and staff observations (20 percent). User group questionnaires distributed by Georgia Power in 2014 to facility providers and user groups also contributed to improved estimates of recreation use at non-project recreation access points.



Annual recreation use of the project reservoir was estimated by analyzing recent data collected by Georgia Power in 2014 for the development of the 2015 Form 80 and updating it for 2015 based on observed growth in local population and attendance records. The following sections describe these methods and how each was utilized to generate the 2015 use estimate.

#### **4.5.1 Georgia Power Form 80 Methodology**

##### ***Trail Cameras and Traffic Counters***

Georgia Power installed trail cameras and traffic counters at three of the seven project recreation facilities (Armour Bridge, Long Shoals Boat Ramp, and Sugar Creek Boat Ramp) during the 2014 recreation season to augment the detailed attendance records kept for Old Salem, Parks Ferry, and Lawrence Shoals Parks. The cameras were installed in areas that allowed for the best visibility of the boat ramps and parking lots and were set to motion detect with a 30-second delay. Pictures were then downloaded for technicians to record the number of axles and vehicles seen. Axle dividing factors were based on these results and consultation with GDNR. These data were then averaged and extrapolated to recreational visits by season by multiplying the average visits per day times the number of days per season.

##### ***Attendance Records***

Georgia Power's Oconee/Sinclair Land Management Office tracks monthly combined use of Lake Sinclair and Lake Oconee via its attendance records broken out by day use or overnight use visitors. All of the overnight visitors are using Lake Oconee since camping is not offered at Lake Sinclair, and Georgia Power staff estimated that 80 percent of the day use is on Lake Oconee. Project recreation facilities tracked by the attendance records and offering camping include Lawrence Shoals, Old Salem, and Parks Ferry Parks. Figure 23 illustrates these data for 2014 and 2015. Recreation use increased 9 percent overall for these three facilities from 72,787 in 2014 to 79,670 visits in 2015. Of these visits, 31 percent were overnight and 69 percent were day use.

##### ***Staff Observation***

As part of their jobs, Georgia Power Land Management staff regularly observe and inspect sites around the Lake Oconee project recreation facilities. As a result, the 2014 Form 80 estimate was also informed by the staff's ability to ground-truth recreation counts to ensure they correspond to the patterns observed at the Project. Additionally, FS staff observations served as the basis for the recreational use estimates for the Dyar Pasture, Redlands, and Swords recreation areas.

### ***Visitor Counts/User Group Surveys***

User group surveys were used by Georgia Power in 2014 to gather information from approximately 15 non-Georgia Power owned recreation access points and user groups. Georgia Power used a questionnaire to collect data on the annual number of visitors or membership and the physical facilities offered, as applicable.

#### **4.5.2 2015 Recreation Use Estimate**

Based on the methodology used by Georgia Power as described above, the 2014 annual estimate of 513,129 recreation visits was updated using the observed change in Land Management staff attendance records, change in the 4-county population, and staff observations. As discussed further in Section 5.1, the average annual population growth of the 4-county region over the past 5 years (2009 – 2014) was 0.02 percent while Georgia Power observed a 9 percent growth in its attendance records between 2014 and 2015. Therefore, an average of these two values, 5 percent, was used to update the 2014 Trail Camera and Traffic Counter and non-Georgia Power owned and operated access site data. These adjustments result in a 2015 annual project recreation use estimate of approximately 605,000 visits of which 471,900 were day use and 133,100 were night use. An estimated 169,247 visits to Lake Oconee, or 28 percent of the total recreational use in 2015, occurred at the seven project recreation facilities.

## **5.0 FUTURE RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

This section describes the historical population trends for the four counties adjacent to the Project and then provides the population forecasts through 2050 for a larger 24-county area. As discussed in Section 4.1.1, just under a quarter (23 percent) of those surveyed resided in one of the four adjacent counties. Overall, the recreation surveys found that the Project attracts users from 43 counties from six different RC areas across Georgia. RCs are multicounty planning and development agencies responsible for a broad range of activities related to comprehensive long-range planning for counties of similar characteristics (Walker, 2014). The surveys indicated that the majority of users came from either northeast Georgia, Middle Georgia, or the Atlanta region. As a result, future recreational demands for the Project were based on the forecasted population change of the 24 counties representing the origin of the majority of existing recreation users, 89 percent (Table 18). Future population growth in the area is anticipated to continue to be driven primarily by the popularity of Lake Oconee as a recreation and retirement destination.

### **5.1 Population Trends**

#### **5.1.1 Historical Population**

Table 19 presents the historical population trends by decade for the 4-county project region between 1900 and 2010. In spite of the fluctuations illustrated in Figure 24, the population in 2010 (64,485) is essentially the same as it was in 1900 (64,089), with the peak population of 72,623 occurring in 1920 (GOPB, 2010). There were an estimated 61,417 people living in the region in 2014 (USCB, 2015a). Of this population, one-third lived in Putnam County (City of Eatonton) on the southwestern side of Lake Oconee, 28 percent lived in Morgan County to the northwest, while 25 percent were in Greene County which encompasses nearly the entire eastern shore of Lake Oconee. Hancock County, located to the southeast of Lake Oconee was home to 14 percent of the region's population. The average annual growth of the 4-county region over the past 5 years (2009 – 2014) was essentially flat at 0.02 percent (USCB, 2015b).

#### **5.1.2 Population Forecasts**

Table 18 summarizes the population forecasts and resulting percent population change by county for the overall 24-county region as published by the Governor's Office of Budget and Planning (GOPB, 2015 and Ryan pers. com., 2016). These forecasts were developed by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG) at UGA using a cohort-component projection technique and basing the projections on multiple factors, including recent data related to births, deaths and migration. They also reflect a noticeable shift from population growth driven concurrently by natural increase (more births than deaths) and in-migration from other regions back to one driven primarily by natural increases again (CVIOG, 2015). Additionally, CVIOG projects that future growth in the state will primarily occur in Georgia's more urban counties

versus the four less urbanized counties adjacent to the Project. This assumption is supported by the flat growth rates experienced by the 4-county area since 2009.

As shown in Figure 25, there is a wide range in the growth projected for each of these 24 counties. When limited to the 4 counties adjacent to the project, it is projected that there will be approximately 65,502 persons in 2020 and 65,231 in 2050; a decline of 3.2 percent. Due to its proximity to the metropolitan Atlanta area, Morgan County is the only county within the 4-county area projected to grow consistently through 2050; by between 4 to 7.5 percent., Putnam County is projected to grow modestly (0.8 to 1.5 percent) through 2030, but is projected to decline overall by 2050. Due to the small existing population in Hancock County, 9,043 in 2014, the forecasted population decline of -7.8 to -23 percent is particularly noticeable (USCB, 2015a). In contrast, the 24-county area representing approximately 89 percent of the Project's recreation users (Table 6) is projected to grow by 5 percent (2015-2020), 10 percent (2020-2030), 8 percent (2030-2040), and 7 percent (2040-2050). Since the recreation survey indicated that the majority of the Project's visitors are from these 24 counties, these growth rates are applied to the annual use estimates to derive future use in the next section.

## **5.2 Future Use Estimates**

As described in Section 4.5.2, approximately 605,000 total recreation visits to Lake Oconee were estimated for 2015, of which 169,247 occurred at the project recreation facilities, or 28 percent (Table 20). As noted above, the 24-county population is forecast to increase between 7 and 10 percent between 2020 and 2050, which is consistent with what is observed from Georgia Power attendance records. Section 4.5.1 notes that a 9-percent increase occurred between 2014 and 2015 in visitation to the Project, while the 4-county population only grew by 0.02 percent during the same period. Therefore, there appears to be a greater correlation with the population growth observed in the larger 24-county region than that of the adjacent counties. As a result, the projected future recreation use in 2020, 2030, 2040 and 2050 are based on the average population growth for the region. Table 20 summarizes these projections by decade which result in an estimated future recreational use of 699,369 in 2030 and 805,019 in 2050. Overall, recreation use at the Project is forecasted to increase by a third, 33 percent, between 2015 and 2050.

## **5.3 Comparison of Carrying Capacity to Future Demand**

This section assesses the overall recreation carrying capacity based on the parking capacity observed during the recreation surveys described in Section 4.1, while Section 5.4 addresses the adequacy of existing boating and bank fishing access. For the purposes of this study, carrying capacity is defined as a site's ability to accommodate the average spring/summer use to the satisfaction of the participants without impairing the resource. FERC does acknowledge that recreational use may exceed the capacity of the area to handle use at peak times such as the July 4th and other holidays. To characterize the current capacity of the Project, Table 21 summarizes the current capacity and parking space use based on 106 car count events at three

project recreation facilities on Lake Oconee during the 2016 recreation survey. Including Saturday, May 28, 2016, the Memorial Day holiday, an average of 12 vehicles was observed at Armour Bridge, 14 at Sugar Creek, and 15 at Long Shoals. The peak observed use did not exceed each site's parking capacity, which was less than 80-percent utilized the majority of the time. Long Shoals Boat Ramp and Armour Bridge remained less than 25-percent utilized, 31 and 35 percent of the time, respectively, while Sugar Creek was less than a quarter utilized 15 percent of the time.

A simple comparison of the parking spaces with the usage level observed during the vehicle counts helps inform the availability of parking at Lake Oconee (Table 22). The peak observed and average spring/summer observed parking utilization is provided for each of the recreation sites surveyed in 2016. It then projects spring/summer average use through 2050. None of the sites are projected to exceed current parking capacity in the future. Thus, the Project's current and future recreation carrying capacity is adequate to accommodate the average spring/summer use. Users currently express overall satisfaction with Georgia Power's boat ramp facilities.

## **6.0 PROJECT LAND USE**

### **6.1 Project Setting**

The Project is located on the Oconee River at river mile 172.7 in the upper Oconee River basin of the greater Altamaha River basin (Figure 1). The watershed upstream of Wallace Dam covers an area of 1,830 square miles (sq mi), comprising about 34 percent of the Oconee River Basin; it drains portions of 14 counties in northeastern and central Georgia. Over 40 cities and towns are located upstream of the Project. The consolidated government of Athens-Clarke County, which includes the City of Athens and the main campus of UGA, is located upstream of the Project. The city of Greensboro is located on the eastern side of Lake Oconee.

There is a diverse mix of land uses in this portion of the upper Oconee River basin. Athens-Clarke County and the central portion of Barrow County, both upstream of the Project, are the most urbanized lands in the basin (CH2M HILL, 2011). Land use in the balance of the northern counties is generally suburban or rural residential mix comprised of low intensity urban, forested lands, and row crop/pasture lands. With the exception of limited pockets of urban land around Eatonton and Milledgeville, most of the lands in the central portion of the basin, around the Project, contain forest, row crop/pasture, or clearcut/sparse vegetation. Livestock and poultry production and dairy operations as well as timber production and related business are relatively intensive in the upper Oconee River basin. Lake Oconee is also known for its private residential and golf developments.

Other notable land uses in the vicinity of the Wallace Dam Project include the 116,731-acre Oconee NF, about 370 ac of which are located within the northern end of the FERC project boundary. In addition, four WMAs are located in the project vicinity including the Oconee, Redlands, Cedar Creek, and B.F. Grant WMAs (Section 3.4.4).

### **6.2 Project Location and Lands**

The Wallace Dam project reservoir, known as Lake Oconee, covers 19,050 ac, has 374 miles of shoreline, and extends about 39 river miles upstream on the Oconee River. Lands and waters within the FERC project boundary are located within Hancock, Putnam, Greene, and Morgan Counties (Figure 2).

### **6.3 Land Uses within the Project Area**

The land use for the project area around Lake Oconee is depicted in Figure 26 and summarized in Table 23 for lands and waters within the project boundary and for a zone extending 2,000 ft beyond the project boundary. The project boundary includes approximately 25,638 ac, of which the majority is the open water of Lake Oconee (74 percent) and associated wetlands. The balance of land use within the project boundary is primarily undeveloped and is either deciduous, evergreen, or mixed forest (13 percent of the total area) or forested wetlands (5 percent of the total area). Excluding the open water category, the upland forest and forested

wetland cover types comprise about 70 percent of the lands within the project boundary. Developed low-intensity, medium-intensity, high-intensity, and open space cover types comprise about 7 percent of the lands within the project boundary (excluding open water). Sixty-six percent of the lands within the 2,000-ft-wide zone around the project boundary are upland forest or forested wetlands, compared to developed, low- to high-intensity and open space uses comprising about 10 percent of the area. Most of these developed land uses are clustered near the central portion of the reservoir along Lake Oconee Parkway (Georgia Hwy 44).

#### **6.4 Shoreline Management Program**

Georgia Power manages the shoreline of Lake Oconee in accordance with its Shoreline Management Guidelines, which provide guidance to adjacent residents on permitting and constructing shoreline structures (Georgia Power, 2015c). No residential structures are allowed on project lands within the project boundary. Georgia Power requires landowners adjacent to the project boundary to sign a valid access lease agreement before applying to Georgia Power for a permit. A permit must be obtained from Georgia Power before beginning any construction, renovation, tree removal, or land disturbance on Georgia Power land, as well as dredging activities. The guidelines list specific Lake Oconee requirements and restrictions for constructing seawalls, docks, wharves, boatslips, and boat lifts and personal watercraft lifts. The requirements minimize shoreline disturbance from tree removal, mechanical clearing, and other activities to protect the 25-ft vegetative buffer surrounding the lake; the project license requires wider vegetative buffers in some areas of the reservoir. The guidelines also include a shoreline use section with information about protecting and enhancing the scenic, recreational, and environmental values of the reservoir, as well as maintaining compatibility with the overall reservoir project recreational use.

Georgia Power manages the Wallace Dam project shoreline according to the applicable License articles for shoreline management, state and local laws and regulations, and corporate internal and external guidelines. The Standard Land Use Article, Article 56C, of the FERC license for the Project gives Georgia Power the authority to permit seawalls, shoreline structures, non-project use of project land requests, and public infrastructure requests. Seawalls, shoreline structures, and any other land disturbance permit requests within the project boundary are also permitted in coordination with applicable U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Programmatic General Permits, and state and local regulations.

Georgia Power has developed a set of internal guidelines for all of its projects. The internal guidelines establish governance for the projects and provide instructions for shoreline staff on permitting within the project boundary. A separate document, the Shoreline Management Guidelines (described above), was developed for external permitting guidance for the public.

Georgia Power's Oconee/Sinclair Land Management Office staff manages the Wallace Dam project boundary shoreline. The Lake Resources Manager is responsible for the shoreline

management program. Two full-time shoreline management staff are responsible for permitting and inspections. One and one-half administrative staff administer the legal documents required by Georgia Power in order to obtain a shoreline permit. Georgia Power undeveloped land is managed by one Georgia Power forester certified as a Professional Forester in Georgia. In addition, two trucks and two boats are dedicated to shoreline management at the Wallace Dam Project. Georgia Power maintains GIS maps of the shoreline and a database of all adjacent property owners.



## 7.0 SUMMARY

The goal of this study was to develop information characterizing the existing recreation and land use resources at the Project and to evaluate issues identified during FERC's public scoping process pursuant to NEPA and having a nexus with project operations. Existing recreation facilities are described in detail in Section 3; seven project recreation facilities, owned and operated by Georgia Power, provide direct access to the Project. The project recreation facilities include three full service campgrounds (Lawrence Shoals Park, Old Salem Park, and Parks Ferry Park), three boat ramps and day-use areas (Armour Bridge, Long Shoals Boat Ramp, and Sugar Creek Boat Ramp), and a fishing platform (Tailrace Fishing Area). The campgrounds and day-use areas provide boat launch facilities, parking, and shoreline fishing and provide direct access to Lake Oconee. The Tailrace Fishing Area provides parking and shoreline fishing and provides access to the Wallace Dam Tailrace Area. Most of the project recreation facilities are open 24 hours a day, allowing for night-time use; Lawrence Shoals, Old Salem Park, and Parks Ferry Park are open seasonally, typically from March through October. In addition to the current project recreation facilities, Georgia Power owns and manages ten areas within the project boundary that are reserved for future recreational development.

Dyar Pasture Recreation Area, Redlands Recreation Area, and Swords Recreation Area, located within the Redlands WMA, are owned and operated by the FS and provide direct access to the northern most reaches of the reservoir north of I-20. The FS facilities include boat launch facilities, parking, and shoreline fishing. Further, there are numerous commercially operated marinas and boat ramps on Lake Oconee providing direct access to the project area.

Recreation surveys were administered to 166 users at the three Georgia Power boat ramps within the project boundary during five survey events between March 2016 and June 2016. Over 23 percent of those visiting the three Georgia Power boat ramps were from the four counties in the region (Greene, Hancock, Morgan, and Putnam). Of the users surveyed, the highest percent were from Putnam (10 percent) followed by Dekalb (8 percent) and Morgan (8 percent). The five most common reasons cited by users for visiting Lake Oconee in 2016 were boat fishing (47 percent), pleasure boating (13 percent), tournament fishing (9 percent), bank fishing (8 percent), and jet skiing (4 percent). The average duration of visit to Georgia Power boat ramps was 6.5 hours and included an average party size of 3.08.

Further, recreation surveys were administered to a total of 77 bank anglers (primary reason for visit) at 14 public and private locations on Lake Oconee during the same five survey events in 2016. Thirty-six percent of those visiting Lake Oconee primarily for bank fishing were from Hancock, Morgan, Newton, or Putnam counties, respectively. The average duration of visit for bank anglers was 5.6 hours.

Estimated annual use at the project recreation facilities was approximately 605,000 visits of which 471,900 were day use and 133,100 were night use. An estimated 169,247 visits to Lake

Oconee occurred at the seven project recreation facilities in 2015. Future recreational use is projected to be approximately 805,369 in 2050 after applying the corresponding percent population growth from the 24 county area representing 89 percent of the Project's recreation users. Overall recreation use at the Project is forecasted to increase by a third, 33 percent, between 2015 and 2050. Analysis of future demand indicates that the existing parking facilities at the Project have adequate capacity for current and future average use. Section 3.4 describes the extensive regional recreation resources available to help meet future recreational needs.

The predominant land uses in this portion of the upper Oconee River basin historically have been suburban or rural residential mix composed of low intensity urban, forested lands, and row crop/pasture lands. With the exception of limited pockets of urban land around Eatonton and Milledgeville, most of the lands around the Project contain forest, row crop/pasture, or clearcut/sparse vegetation. Land use for the project boundary is primarily undeveloped and is either deciduous or evergreen forested, twelve percent of the total area, or forested wetlands, five percent of the total area. Less than two percent of the project lands are being used for low or high intensity urban purposes. Sixty-three percent of the lands within 2,000-ft of the Project are forested, while approximately 811 ac, or one percent, are on low or high intensity urban uses. The majority of these urban uses are clustered near the central portion of the reservoir along Lake Oconee Parkway.

Georgia Power manages the shoreline of Lake Oconee under its Shoreline Management Guidelines. No residential structures are allowed on project lands within the project boundary. Landowners adjacent to the project boundary must sign a lease agreement before applying to Georgia Power for a permit to construct shoreline structures. The guidelines list specific requirements and restrictions for any construction, renovation, tree removal, or land disturbance on Georgia Power land, as well as dredging activities. Georgia Power also manages the shoreline according to the applicable license articles, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Programmatic General Permits, and state and local regulations.

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# TABLES

**TABLE 1**  
Recreation Facilities Providing Access to the Wallace Dam Project

Park/Facility	County	Total Acreage	Acreage within Project Boundary	Address	Amenities
<b>Georgia Power Owned and Operated Facilities (located within Project Boundary):</b>					
Armour Bridge	Greene	10.72	10.72	Brown's Ford Road, Greensboro	Boat ramp (2 lanes), 40 parking slots, dock, picnic tables, fishing, restroom, public access within Reynolds Lake Oconee
Lawrence Shoals Park	Putnam	83.58	83.58	123 Wallace Dam Road, Eatonton	Boat ramp (2 lanes), 68 parking slots, 3 docks, full-service campground, nature trails, swimming beach, restrooms, picnic tables, picnic pavilion, barrier-free access, playground
Long Shoals Boat Ramp	Putnam	12.06	12.06	Long Shoals Road, Eatonton	Boat ramp (2 lanes), 34 parking slots, dock, picnic tables, fishing, restroom, barrier-free access
Old Salem Park	Greene	83.34	83.34	1530 Old Salem Road, Greensboro	Boat ramp (2 lanes), 123 parking slots, 3 docks, full-service campground, swimming beach, restrooms, picnic tables, picnic pavilion, playground
Parks Ferry Park	Greene	90.98	90.98	1491 Parks Mill Road NE, Greensboro	Boat ramp (2 lanes), 74 parking slots, dock, full-service campground, swimming beach, restrooms, picnic pavilion, playground
Sugar Creek Boat Ramp	Putnam	10.39	10.39	Parks Mill Road, Buckhead	Boat ramp (2 lanes), 37 parking slots, dock, picnic tables, fishing, restroom, barrier-free access
Tailrace Fishing Area	Putnam	NA <sup>a</sup>	<0.1	Wallace Dam Road West	Fishing platform, parking.
<b>FS Owned and Operated Facilities:</b>					
Dyar Pasture Recreation Area	Greene	241.08	100 <sup>b</sup>	USFS Road 1276 at Copeland Road, Greensboro	Boat ramp (2 lanes), fishing, nature trail, picnic facilities, restroom
Redlands Recreation Area	Greene	1,393.69	23.27	USFS Road 1255 at US Hwy 278, Greensboro	Paved boat ramp (3 lanes), 2 picnic tables and grill, restroom (no water), 100 parking slots
Swords Recreation Area	Morgan	314.87	2.35	Blue Springs Road, Buckhead	Paved boat ramp (3 lanes), boat dock, restroom, 100 parking slots
<b>Privately Owned and Operated Facilities:</b>					
Apalachee Bait Shop & Fish Camp	Morgan	10.98	0.10	1010 Apalachee River Rd, Madison	Boat launch, primitive campsites, restrooms
Blue Springs Marina	Morgan	6.21	1.18	1291 Blue Springs Drive, Buckhead	Food, gas, restaurant, marina, restrooms



TABLE 1

Recreation Facilities Providing Access to the Wallace Dam Project

<b>Park/Facility</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Total Acreage</b>	<b>Acreage within Project Boundary</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Amenities</b>
Boathouse at Harbor Club	Greene	6.40	0.64	3991 Walker Church Road, Greensboro	Food, full-service campground, gas, marina, picnic, restrooms
Greene County Boat Ramp	Greene	0.55	0.06	SE End of Howard Lewis Road, White Plains	
Great Waters Marina	Putnam	1.86	0.22	154 Oakton South, Eatonton	Reynolds Lake Oconee – dry-slip boat storage, pontoon boat rentals, on-demand launching, marina stores, fuel
Hwy 44 Public Fishing (Tract C-5)	Greene	10.30	10.09	136 Clack Cir, Eatonton	Shoreline fishing
Hwy 44 Public Fishing (Jerry's)	Putnam	3.06	0.69	1054 Greensboro Rd, Eatonton	Gas, store
Lake Club Marina	Greene	4.77	0.04	Brown's Ford Road, Greensboro	Reynolds Lake Oconee – indoor/outdoor pools, food, children's area, beach access, boat ramps and docks
The Landing Marina	Greene	2.65	0.01	1021 Long Cove Drive, Greensboro	Reynolds Lake Oconee – dry-slip boat storage, pontoon boat rentals, on-demand launching, marina stores, fuel
North Shore Resort	Greene	53.46	0.12	2541 Carey Station Road, Greensboro	Full RV accommodations, rental units, picnic pavilions, 2 swimming pools, fishing, swimming, boat ramp, game courts, playground, RV storage
Oconee Outdoors and Marina	Putnam	2.80	0.08	891 Greensboro Road, Eatonton	Full-service marina with dry storage, fishing, boat ramps
Reynolds Plantation Marina	Greene	7.88	0.03	100 Linger Longer Road, Greensboro	Reynolds Lake Oconee – dry-slip boat storage, pontoon boat rentals, on-demand launching, marina stores, fuel
Sugar Creek Marina	Putnam	11.42	1.74	353 Parks Mill Road, Buckhead	Gas, marina, picnic, restrooms
Waterfront Marina	Putnam	8.12	1.32	144 Collis Marina Road, Eatonton	Food, full-service campground, gas, marina, picnic, restrooms

<sup>a</sup> Area outside of project boundary is part of Sinclair Project (FERC No. 1951).<sup>b</sup> Provisional estimate based on elevation contour.

**TABLE 2**  
Regional Recreation Facilities within 60 Miles of Project Boundary

<b>Recreation Area</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Lake Sinclair	GA	Baldwin, Hancock, and Putnam	15,330
Lake Jackson	GA	Jasper, Newton, and Butts	4,750
Lake Juliette	GA	Monroe	3,600
Clarks Hill Lake	GA/SC	Elbert (GA), Lincoln (GA), McDuffie (GA), Columbia (GA), Wilkes (GA), and McCormick (SC)	71,100
Oconee WMA	GA	Greene, Hancock, and Putnam	7,000
Redlands WMA	GA	Greene, Oconee, and Oglethorpe	37,500
Cedar Creek WMA	GA	Jasper, Jones, and Putnam	39,223
B.F. Grant WMA	GA	Jasper, Jones, and Putnam	11,400
Hard Labor Creek SP	GA	Morgan	5,804
Panola Mountain SP	GA	Rockdale	1,635
Indian Springs SP	GA	Butts	528
High Falls SP	GA	Butts	1,050
Hamburg SP	GA	Washington	741
Alexander H. Stephens SP	GA	Taliaferro	1,177
Mistletoe SP	GA	Columbia	1,920
Fort Yargo SP	GA	Barrow	1,916
Watson Mill Bridge SP	GA	Madison	1,118
Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center PFA	GA	Jasper	6,400
McDuffie PFA	GA	McDuffie	570
Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge	GA	Jones and Jasper	34,955
Oconee National Forest	GA	Greene, Jasper, Jones, Morgan, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Putnam, and Monroe	116,731
Bartram State Forest	GA	Baldwin and Wilkinson	2,113
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>315,983</b>

TABLE 3  
Lake Sinclair Amenities and Recreation Facilities

Park/Facility	County	Address	Amenities
<b>Georgia Power Owned and Operated Facilities:</b>			
Rocky Creek Park	Baldwin	200 Rocky Creek Rd, Milledgeville, GA 31061 *	1 Boat Ramp (1 lane), boat dock, parking lot, swimming beach, restrooms, picnic pavilion, playground, barrier fee
Cosby's Boat Ramp	Hancock	171-177 Ramp Rd, Milledgeville, GA 31061 *	1 boat ramp (1 lane), boat dock, parking lot handicapped access, barrier fee
TD Cheek Fishing Pier	Baldwin	1099 Milledgeville Rd, Eatonton, GA 31061 *	Fishing pier, shoreline fishing access, fish attractors, parking area, barrier fee
Sinclair Dam Pier	Baldwin	3779 Sinclair Dam Rd, Milledgeville, GA 31061 *	Boat Ramp (1 lane), fishing platform, parking area, handicapped access
Sea Brook Boat Ramp	Baldwin	378 Seabrook Rd. NE, Milledgeville, GA 31061 *	Boat ramp (1 lane), boat dock, parking lot, handicapped access
<b>Other Facilities:</b>			
Bass Boat House	Baldwin	140 Bass NE, Milledgeville, GA 31061	Boat launch, boat storage, restrooms, gas, barrier fee
Crooked Creek Marina	Putnam	208 Crooked Creek Dr, Eatonton, GA 31024	Boat ramp, picnic tables, gas, tackle, and restaurant, barrier fee
Dennis Station Access Area	Putnam	209 Bagley Rd, Eatonton, GA 31024 *	One boat ramp (4 lanes)
Greene's Landing	Baldwin	Kinderhook Rd. & Honeysuckle Rd, Milledgeville, GA 31061 *	Boat launch, barrier fee
Haslam's Marina	Baldwin	100 Meriweather Point Rd NW, Milledgeville, GA 31061	Boat launch, boat dock, food, gas, restrooms, marina, barrier fee
Hwy 16 Boat Ramp	Hancock	Ferry Rd, Sparta, GA 31087 *	Boat launch (2 lanes), boat dock
Hwy 441 Causeway	Baldwin	860 Milledgeville Rd, Eatonton, GA 31024 *	
Jere Shai Campground	Putnam	1064 Milledgeville, Hwy, Milledgeville, GA 31061	RV Park, cabin rentals, boat and jet ski rentals, boat storage, barrier fee
Lakeside Bait & Tackle	Putnam	1065 Milledgeville, Hwy, Milledgeville, GA 31061	Boat launch, boat dock, gas, food, restrooms, barrier fee
Little River Park	Baldwin	3069 N Columbia St, Milledgeville, GA 31061	RV campsites, cabin rentals, marina, gas, swimming area, barrier fee
Oconee Springs Park	Putnam	109 South Spring Rd, Eatonton, GA 31024	Boat launch, campground, cabin rentals, picnic area, fishing pier, restrooms, swimming beach, barrier fee
Sinclair Marina	Baldwin	170 Sinclair Marina Rd, Milledgeville, GA 31061	Boat ramp, food, gas, restaurant, barrier fee
Sunset Marina	Putnam	105 Mays Rd, Milledgeville, GA 31061	Boat launch, boat storage, food, gas, marina, hotel rooms, barrier fee
U.S. Forest Service Camp	Putnam	Putnam Beach Rd SW, Eatonton, GA 31024 *	Boat ramp, campground, picnic areas, restrooms, hiking, swimming beach, barrier fee
Twin Bridges Landing	Putnam	609 Twin Bridges Rd SW, Eatonton, GA 31024	Boat ramp, boat storage, food, gas, marina, barrier fee

\* Closest approximate address

TABLE 4

Federal or State Comprehensive Waterway Plans Potentially Applicable to Project Recreation or Land Use

Comprehensive Plan	Potentially Applicable to Recreation or Land Use (Yes or No)
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 1998. Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic sturgeon ( <i>Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus</i> ). (Report No. 31). July 1998.	Yes
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 1998. Interstate fishery management plan for Atlantic striped bass. (Report No. 34). January 1998.	Yes
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 1999. Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for shad and river herring. (Report No. 35). April 1999.	Yes
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2000. Technical Addendum 1 to Amendment 1 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for shad and river herring. February 9, 2000.	Yes
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2009. Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for shad and river herring, Arlington, Virginia. May 2009.	Yes
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2010. Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for shad and river herring, Arlington, Virginia. February 2010.	Yes
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2000. Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American eel ( <i>Anguilla rostrata</i> ). (Report No. 36). April 2000.	Yes
Georgia Department of Natural Resources. 1985. Water availability and use - Oconee River Basin. Atlanta	Yes
Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Georgia Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP): 2008-2013. Atlanta	Yes
Georgia Department of Natural Resources. 1986. Water availability and use report - Altamaha River Basin. Atlanta	Yes
National Marine Fisheries Service. 1998. Final Recovery Plan for the shortnose sturgeon ( <i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i> ). Prepared by the Shortnose Sturgeon Recovery Team for the National Marine Fisheries Service, Silver Spring, Maryland. December 1998.	Yes
National Park Service. The Nationwide Rivers Inventory. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 1993.	Yes
State of Georgia. Office of the Governor. 1987. Water resources management strategy-summary document. Atlanta, Georgia. January 12, 1987.	Yes
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. National Marine Fisheries Service. Georgia Department of Natural Resources. 2013. Priority restoration and management actions for the American Shad in the Altamaha River Basin, Georgia. Athens, Georgia. 2013.	Yes
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. No date. Fisheries USA: the recreational fisheries policy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Washington, D.C.	Yes

TABLE 5  
Numbers of Recreation Surveys Administered During Five Events in March-June 2016

Location	Tuesday 03-22-2016 (Weekday)	Saturday 04-16-2016 (Weekend)	Saturday 05-28-2016 (Holiday)	Sunday 06-12-2016 (Weekend)	Wednesday 06-22-2016 (Weekday)	Access Point Total
<b>Georgia Power Boat Ramps:</b>						
Sugar Creek	11	20	25	19	1	76
Long Shoals	10	9	16	14	7	56
Armour Bridge	2	6	11	14	1	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>166</b>
<b>Roving Survey Locations:</b>						
Lawrence Shoals Park	1	2	0	0	0	3
Old Salem Park	3	7	3	0	0	13
Parks Ferry Park	0	0	5	2	0	7
Tailrace Fishing Area	0	1	3	0	1	5
Hancock County Boat Ramp (Hwy 16)	1	3	5	0	1	10
Hwy 44 at Lake Oconee East Bank	1	6	0	2	0	9
Hwy 44 at Jerry's Bait & Tackle	2	1	3	0	0	6
Swords Recreation Area	0	3	0	3	0	6
Dyar Pasture Recreation	0	1	4	0	0	5
Redlands Recreation Area	0	2	3	0	0	5
Hwy 278 at Apalachee River	0	2	0	1	0	3
Hwy 278 at Oconee River	0	2	1	0	0	3
Blue Springs Marina	0	1	0	0	0	1
Hwy 44 near Oconee Outdoors	1	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>77</b>

**TABLE 6**  
County of Origin of Users and Vehicles Counted at Georgia Power Boat Ramps at Lake Oconee

<b>Residence (County)</b>	<b>Users Surveyed <sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Percent Total Number</b>	<b>Number of Plates <sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Percent Total Number</b>
Putnam Co., GA	17	10%	69	5%
DeKalb Co., GA	14	8%	63	5%
Morgan Co., GA	13	8%	78	6%
Newton Co., GA	11	7%	87	6%
Walton Co., GA	11	7%	81	6%
Columbia Co., GA	8	5%	100	7%
Henry Co., GA	8	5%	44	3%
Greene Co., GA	6	4%	31	2%
Jasper Co., GA	6	4%	45	3%
Toombs Co., GA	6	4%	21	2%
Houston Co., GA	5	3%	31	2%
Rockdale Co., GA	5	3%	28	2%
Bibb Co., GA	4	2%	19	1%
Butts Co., GA	4	2%	17	1%
Gwinnett Co., GA	4	2%	51	4%
Appling Co., GA	3	2%	18	1%
Baldwin Co., GA	3	2%	58	4%
Fulton Co., GA	3	2%	21	2%
Jones Co., GA	3	2%	29	2%
Laurens Co., GA	3	2%	24	2%
Oconee Co., GA	3	2%	40	3%
Barrow Co., GA	2	1%	--	1%
Hancock Co., GA	2	1%	17	1%
Bullock Co., GA	--	--	16	1%
Clarke Co., GA	--	--	11	1%
Crawford Co., GA	--	--	12	1%
Evans Co., GA	--	--	16	1%
Hall Co., GA	--	--	12	1%
Monroe Co., GA	--	--	11	1%

TABLE 6

County of Origin of Users and Vehicles Counted at Georgia Power Boat Ramps at Lake Oconee

<b>Residence (County)</b>	<b>Users Surveyed <sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Percent Total Number</b>	<b>Number of Plates <sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Percent Total Number</b>
Tattnall Co., GA	--	--	11	1%
Twiggs Co., GA	--	--	10	1%
Upson Co., GA	--	--	9	1%
Wayne Co., GA	--	--	9	1%
Barrow Co., GA	--	--	8	1%
Washington Co., GA	--	--	8	1%
Burke Co., GA	--	--	7	1%
Clayton Co., GA	--	--	7	1%
Emanuel Co., GA	--	--	7	1%
Lumpkin Co., GA	--	--	7	1%
Pike Co., GA	--	--	6	Less than 1%
Wilcox Co., GA	--	--	5	Less than 1%
Peach Co., GA	2	1%	11	1%
Unknown, GA <sup>c</sup>	1	Less than 1%	124	9%
Other States <sup>d</sup>	0	--	19	1%
Single County Surveys <sup>e</sup>	19	11%	--	--
Vehicle Tag <5 <sup>f</sup>	--	--	50	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>166</b>		<b>1348</b>	

<sup>a</sup> Includes counties reported by survey respondents from Georgia Power Boat Ramps surveyed combined

<sup>b</sup> County of origin is based on vehicle counts in parking lots at Georgia Power Boat Ramps

<sup>c</sup> Unknown indicates no county reported on user surveys or Georgia special interest plates showing no county of origin for vehicle

<sup>d</sup> Reflects vehicle tags observed from Kansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Texas

<sup>e</sup> Reflects individual surveys from: Burke, GA; Cherokee, GA; Clarke, GA; Clayton, GA; Cobb, GA; Crawford, GA; Douglas, GA; Evans, GA; Haralson, GA; Jeff Davis, GA; Monroe, GA; Oglethorpe, GA; Pike, GA; Spalding, GA; Tattnall, GA; Twiggs, GA; Upson, GA; Warren, GA; Wilcox, GA

<sup>f</sup> Reflects vehicle tags observed from: Bleckley, GA; Bryan, GA; Carroll, Cherokee, GA; GA; Cobb, GA; Douglas, GA; Elbert, GA; Forsyth, GA; Franklin, GA; Gilmer, GA; Haralson, GA; Hart, GA; Jackson, GA; Jeff Davis, GA; Oglethorpe, GA; Richmond, GA; Spalding, GA

TABLE 7

Primary Reasons for Visits of Users Surveyed at Georgia Power Boat Ramps at Lake Oconee

	<b>Armour Bridge</b>	<b>Long Shoals Boat Ramp</b>	<b>Sugar Creek Boat Ramp</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Boat Fishing	61%	42%	46%	47%
Bank Fishing	--	5%	13%	8%
Tournament Fishing	11%	10%	8%	9%
Pleasure Boating	18%	10%	14%	13%
Pontoon Boating	--	5%	1%	2%
Water Skiing	5%	4%	1%	3%
Tubing	--	1%	4%	2%
Jet Skiing	3%	8%	2%	4%
Canoeing/kayaking	3%	1%	--	1%
Picnicking/playing	--	1%	2%	1%
Swimming/wading	--	4%	1%	2%
Shoreline relaxation	--	1%	8%	4%
Other <sup>a</sup>	--	5%	--	2%
<sup>a</sup> Other refers to individuals using facility to load boat for work purposes				



TABLE 8

Age of Users Surveyed and Duration and Frequency of Visits to Georgia Power Boat Ramps at Lake Oconee

	<b>Armour Bridge</b>	<b>Long Shoals Boat Ramp</b>	<b>Sugar Creek Boat Ramp</b>	<b>Overall</b>
<b>Age Group Composition:</b>				
18-24	--	4%	7%	4%
25-34	6%	13%	14%	12%
35-44	26%	27%	17%	22%
45-54	38%	23%	33%	31%
55+	29%	34%	29%	31%
<b>Average Duration of Visits (Hours):</b>				
3/22/2016	6.5	6.1	6.0	6.1
4/16/2016	6.8	5.6	6.3	6.2
5/28/2016	13.6	5.9	4.8	7.0
6/12/2016	7.1	5.4	7.2	6.6
6/22/2016	3.0	5.8	8.0	5.7
<b>Overall</b>	9.0	5.7	6.0	6.5
<b>Average Number of Visits per Month:</b>				
3/22/2016	3.5	5.7	2.7	4.1
4/16/2016	7.7	8.7	2.6	5.0
5/28/2016	3.2	1.6	6.6	4.3
6/12/2016	3.5	3.1	3.7	3.4
6/22/2016	30.0	3.1	6.0	6.4
<b>Overall</b>	4.9	4.0	4.2	4.3

TABLE 9

Most Often Cited Other Parks and Lakes in the Area Frequented by Users of Recreation Facilities at Lake Oconee

Park or Lake	Responses	% of Total
None	79	24%
Other Oconee Access	67	20%
Lake Sinclair	57	17%
Lake Jackson	24	7%
Clarks Hill Lake	22	7%
Other	23	7%
Lake Lanier	12	4%
West Point Lake	14	4%
Lake Hartwell	7	2%
Lake Blackshear	5	2%
Lake Russell	5	2%
Lake Allatoona	4	1%
Charlie Elliott	2	1%
Lake Burton	2	1%
Lake Eufaula	2	1%
Lake Juliette	2	1%
Bear Creek Reservoir	1	Less Than 1%
Hard Labor Creek	1	Less Than 1%
Lake Murray	1	Less Than 1%
Stone Mountain	1	Less Than 1%
Weiss Lake (AL)	1	Less Than 1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>332<sup>a</sup></b>	

<sup>a</sup> Some respondents provided more than one location

TABLE 10  
Recreation Survey Respondent Ratings of Georgia Power Boat Ramps at Lake Oconee

Location	Rating	Bank Fishing Access	Boat Ramp	Cleanliness	Dock	Parking	Restrooms
Armour Bridge	Good	24%	97%	82%	50%	100%	62%
	Fair	9%	3%	18%	35%	--	15%
	Poor	--	--	--	15%	--	3%
	No Response	68%	--	--	--	--	21%
Long Shoals Boat Ramp	Good	16%	86%	75%	64%	93%	38%
	Fair	2%	4%	11%	20%	4%	18%
	Poor	4%	--	5%	2%	--	11%
	No Response	79%	11%	9%	14%	4%	34%
Sugar Creek Boat Ramp	Good	38%	84%	84%	79%	91%	50%
	Fair	5%	3%	13%	9%	5%	20%
	Poor	1%	--	--	3%	4%	11%
	No Response	55%	13%	3%	9%	--	20%
<b>Overall 3 Main Areas</b>	Good	28%	87%	81%	68%	93%	48%
	Fair	5%	3%	13%	18%	4%	18%
	Poor	2%	0%	2%	5%	2%	9%
	No Response	66%	10%	4%	9%	1%	25%

TABLE 11

Major Categories of Improvements Desired by Users of Georgia Power Boat Ramps at Lake Oconee

Generalized Improvements	Armour Bridge	Long Shoals Boat Ramp	Sugar Creek Boat Ramp	Total	% of Total Suggestions
Additional or Improved Bathrooms	--	7	6	13	6%
Additional or Improved Boat Dock	10	9	6	25	12%
Additional or Improved Boat Ramp	1	5	5	11	5%
Additional or Improved Parking	--	7	3	10	5%
Additional or Improved Picnic Areas/Grills	--	--	3	3	1%
Additional Trash Cans/Trash Pickup	2	--	1	3	1%
Bank Fishing/Fishing Piers	--	2	2	4	2%
Day Use Pass/Annual Pass	1	2	3	6	3%
Extend Hours of Operation	--	1	--	1	Less than 1%
Facility Maintenance	1	4	4	9	4%
Improved Lighting	4	4	1	9	4%
None	8	8	33	49	24%
Other <sup>a</sup>	9	30	16	55	27%
Prevent Fishing from Boat Launch Docks	--	4	4	8	4%
Total Number of Comments	36	83	87	206	

<sup>a</sup> Refer to Appendix B for other suggestions

TABLE 12

County of Origin of Users and Vehicles Counted at Roving Survey Areas at Lake Oconee

<b>Residence</b>	<b>Users Surveyed <sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Percent Total Number</b>	<b>Totals Vehicles <sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Percent Total Number</b>
Hancock Co., GA	7	9%	13	2%
Morgan Co., GA	7	9%	51	6%
Newton Co., GA	7	9%	55	7%
Putnam Co., GA	7	9%	18	2%
Walton Co., GA	6	8%	115	15%
DeKalb Co., GA	5	6%	41	5%
Greene Co., GA	5	6%	36	5%
Baldwin Co., GA	3	4%	15	2%
Gwinnett Co., GA	3	4%	41	5%
Madison Co., GA	3	4%	12	2%
Oconee Co., GA	3	4%	74	9%
Rockdale Co., GA	3	4%	9	1%
Barrow Co., GA	2	3%	32	4%
Jackson Co., GA	2	3%	17	2%
Oglethorpe Co., GA	2	3%	12	2%
Appling Co., GA	--	--	5	1%
Bibb Co., GA	--	--	7	1%
Clarke Co., GA	--	--	34	4%
Cobb Co., GA	--	--	5	1%
Fayette Co., GA	--	--	6	1%
Fulton Co., GA	--	--	7	1%
Hall Co., GA	--	--	6	1%
Henry Co., GA	--	--	16	2%
Houston Co., GA	--	--	9	1%
Jefferson Co., GA	--	--	5	1%
Laurens Co., GA	--	--	7	1%
Lumpkin Co., GA	--	--	8	1%
Spalding Co., GA	--	--	6	1%
Telfair Co., GA	--	--	9	1%

TABLE 12

County of Origin of Users and Vehicles Counted at Roving Survey Areas at Lake Oconee

<b>Residence</b>	<b>Users Surveyed <sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Percent Total Number</b>	<b>Totals Vehicles <sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Percent Total Number</b>
Toombs Co., GA	--	--	8	1%
Washington Co., GA	--	--	5	1%
Unknown, GA <sup>c</sup>	--	--	25	3%
Other States <sup>d</sup>	--	--	18	2%
Single County Surveys <sup>e</sup>	12	16%	--	--
Less than 5 Vehicle Tags <sup>f</sup>	--	--	51	6%
Single County Vehicle Tags <sup>g</sup>	--	--	10	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>		<b>788</b>	

<sup>a</sup> Includes counties reported by survey respondents from all access points surveyed combined<sup>b</sup> County of origin is based on vehicle counts in parking lots at Roving Survey Areas<sup>c</sup> Unknown indicates no county reported on user surveys or special interest plates showing no county of origin for vehicle<sup>d</sup> Reflects vehicle tags observed from Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee<sup>e</sup> Reflects individual surveys from: Banks, GA; Bibb, GA; Burke, GA; Clarke, GA; Clayton, GA; Floyd, GA; Fulton, GA; Hall, GA; Jasper, GA; Jones, GA; Paulding, GA; Telfair, GA<sup>f</sup> Reflects vehicle tags observed from: Banks, GA; Butts, GA; Clayton, GA; Dawson, GA; Dodge, GA; Effingham, GA; Elbert, GA; Franklin, GA; Habersham, GA; Jasper, GA; Jones, GA; McDuffie, GA; Monroe, GA; Montgomery, GA; Pike, GA; Treutlen, GA; Upson, GA; Warren, GA; Wilkinson, GA<sup>g</sup> Reflects vehicle tags observed from: Bulloch, GA; Burke, GA; Carroll, GA; Chatham, GA; Cherokee, GA; Floyd, GA; Glascock, GA; Paulding, GA; Polk, GA; Towns, GA; Ware, GA

TABLE 13

Age of Users Surveyed and Duration and Frequency of Visits at Roving Survey Areas at Lake Oconee

	Lawrence Shoals Park	Old Salem Park	Parks Ferry	Tailrace Fishing Area	Blue Springs Marina	Dyar Pasture Recreation	Hancock County Boat Ramp, Hwy 16 (DNR Ramp)	Hwy 278 at Apalachee River	Hwy 278 at Oconee River	Hwy 44 at Jerry's Bait & Tackle	Hwy 44 at Lake Oconee East Bank	Hwy 44 near Oconee Outdoors	Redlands Recreation Area	Swords Recreation Area	Totals
<b>Age Group Composition:</b>															
18-24	--	8%	--	--	--	--	--	--	67%	--	--	--	20%	0%	5%
25-34	33%	8%	14%	60%	--	40%	20%	--	33%	--	--	100%	40%	17%	19%
35-44	--	15%	43%	--	--	20%	40%	67%	--	17%	33%	--	--	17%	22%
45-54	33%	69%	29%	20%	--	--	10%	33%	--	67%	22%	--	40%	33%	32%
55+	33%	--	14%	20%	100%	40%	30%	--	--	17%	44%	--	--	33%	21%
<b>Average Duration of Visits (Hours):</b>															
3/22/2016	4.0	7.7	--	--	--	--	6.0	--	--	2.0	5.0	12.0	--	--	6.0
4/16/2016	6.0	7.4	--	6.0	3.0	14.0	7.7	3.0	9.0	5.0	3.0	--	5.0	2.0	5.6
5/28/2016	--	6.7	6.2	5.0	--	10.3	5.2	--	6.0	4.3	--	--	6.0	--	6.3
6/12/2016	--	--	2.5	--	--	--	--	3.0	--	--	3.5	--	--	4.2	3.4
6/22/2016	--	--	--	3.0	--	--	2.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.5
<b>Overall</b>	5.3	7.3	5.1	4.8	3.0	11.0	5.7	3.0	8.0	3.7	3.3	12.0	5.6	3.1	5.6

TABLE 13

Age of Users Surveyed and Duration and Frequency of Visits at Roving Survey Areas at Lake Oconee

	Lawrence Shoals Park	Old Salem Park	Parks Ferry	Tailrace Fishing Area	Blue Springs Marina	Dyar Pasture Recreation	Hancock County Boat Ramp, Hwy 16 (DNR Ramp)	Hwy 278 at Apalachee River	Hwy 278 at Oconee River	Hwy 44 at Jerry's Bait & Tackle	Hwy 44 at Lake Oconee East Bank	Hwy 44 near Oconee Outdoors	Redlands Recreation Area	Swords Recreation Area	Totals
<b>Average Number of Visits per Month:</b>															
3/22/2016	4.0	3.7	--	--	--	--	15.0	--	--	8.5	1.0	8.0	--	--	6.2
4/16/2016	1.5	4.6	--	7.0	5.0	1.0	3.7	1.0	2.0	1.0	2.8	--	1.5	1.0	2.9
5/28/2016	--	1.3	2.2	5.0	--	2.3	3.8	--	2.0	2.3	--	--	1.0	--	2.6
6/12/2016	--	--	3.0	--	--	--	--	5.0	--	--	1.5	--	--	2.3	2.6
6/22/2016	--	--	--	1.0	--	--	1.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.0
<b>Overall</b>	2.3	3.6	2.4	4.6	5.0	2.0	4.6	2.3	2.0	4.2	2.3	8.0	1.2	1.7	3.1



TABLE 14  
Recreation Survey Respondent Ratings of Roving Survey Areas at Lake Oconee

Location	Rating <sup>a</sup>	Bank Fishing Access	Boat Ramp	Cleanliness	Dock	Parking	Restrooms
Lawrence Shoals Park	Good	33%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	No Response	67%	--	--	--	--	--
Old Salem Park	Good	69%	92%	92%	85%	100%	85%
	Fair	31%	--	8%	8%	--	8%
	No Response	--	8%	--	8%	--	8%
Parks Ferry	Good	100%	14%	86%	14%	100%	86%
	Fair	--	--	14%	--	--	14%
	No Response	--	86%	--	86%	--	--
Tailrace Fishing Area	Good	40%	--	60%	40%	60%	--
	Fair	--	--	--	20%	20%	--
	Poor	20%	--	--	--	--	--
	No Response	40%	100%	40%	40%	20%	100%
Blue Springs Marina	Good	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Dyar Pasture Recreation	Good	60%	80%	60%	80%	100%	
	Fair	40%	--	20%	--	--	60%
	Poor	--	--	--	--	--	20%
	No Response	--	20%	20%	20%	--	20%
Hancock County Boat Ramp, Hwy 16 (DNR Ramp)	Good	10%	70%	30%	90%	70%	--
	Fair	30%	--	20%	--	--	--
	Poor	--	--	20%	--	30%	--
	No Response	60%	30%	30%	10%	--	100%
Hwy 278 at Apalachee River	Good	33%	--	--	--	33%	--
	Fair	67%	--	67%	--	67%	--
	Poor	--	--	33%	--	--	--
	No Response	--	100%	--	100%	--	100%
Hwy 278 at Oconee River	Good	33%	--	33%	--	67%	--
	Fair	33%	--	--	--	33%	--
	Poor	33%	--	--	--	--	--
	No Response	--	100%	67%	100%	--	100%

TABLE 14  
Recreation Survey Respondent Ratings of Roving Survey Areas at Lake Oconee

Location	Rating <sup>a</sup>	Bank Fishing Access	Boat Ramp	Cleanliness	Dock	Parking	Restrooms
Hwy 44 at Jerry's Bait & Tackle	Good	83%	--	67%	--	67%	--
	Fair	17%	--	--	--	17%	--
	No Response	--	100%	33%	100%	17%	100%
Hwy 44 at Lake Oconee East Bank	Good	78%	--	33%	--	78%	--
	Fair	11%	--	33%	--	11%	--
	Poor	--	--	22%	--	--	--
	No Response	11%	100%	11%	100%	11%	100%
Hwy 44 near Oconee Outdoors	Good	100%	--	100%	100%	100%	100%
	No Response	--	100%	--	--	--	--
Redlands Recreation Area	Good	60%	100%	80%	100%	100%	60%
	Fair	--	--	--	--	--	20%
	No Response	40%	--	20%	--	--	20%
Swords Recreation Area	Good	83%	33%	67%	33%	83%	33%
	Fair	--	--	17%	--	--	17%
	No Response	17%	67%	17%	67%	17%	50%
Overall All Areas	Good	38%	74%	75%	63%	90%	44%
	Fair	9%	2%	14%	13%	5%	15%
	Poor	2%	--	3%	3%	2%	7%
	No Response	51%	24%	8%	21%	2%	34%

<sup>a</sup> If survey rating not listed, then no facilities were rated as such.

TABLE 15  
Summary of Interviews with User Groups

	Lake Country Board of Realtors	Oconee Heights Homeowners Association
<b>Organization</b>		
Type of Organization	Private	Private
Purpose or Mission	To promote realtor productivity	Maintain and upkeep the grounds and roads in the subdivision
Number of Participants	345	50 Homeowners
Proximity of Participants	1-25 miles	Local
<b>Use of Lake Oconee</b>		
Groups Use of Lake Oconee	Recreational and real estate sales	We live on the Lake. Our residents have various interests, some fish, some are boating and just enjoying the beauty
Typical Party Size	N/A	We have 50 families, range from 2 to 6 or 7 members. Plus, on occasions, invited guests.
Frequency of Use in a Year	Weekly	Year round
Time of Use (season/day/times)	Weekly, all seasons, daytime	Year round
Areas Used Most Frequently	Upper Reservoir, Middle Reservoir, Lower Reservoir, and Richland Creek	Middle Reservoir
Access Points	Reynolds Lake Oconee ramps, Cuscowilla ramps, Harbour Club ramps, Sugar Creek ramps, Great Waters ramps, and many more depending on where our members are going to show property	Our subdivision boar ramp
Attributes of Impoundment Important to Use	Cleanliness of the lake, fishing, safety, water sports, real estate purchases, and boating	Constant water level
Attributes of Impoundment Discouraging Use	Inclement weather conditions and when the lake has a "stained appearance (usually in the winter or after storms)	N/A
<b>Quality of Existing Access to Lake Oconee</b>		
Perception of Adequacy of Existing Access and/or facilities along Lake Oconee	Good	Very good

TABLE 15  
Summary of Interviews with User Groups

	Lake Country Board of Realtors	Oconee Heights Homeowners Association
What Additional Access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your use of the reservoir?	It would be nice to be able to access the Hancock County side of the lake faster by car. It takes over an hour to drive all the way around the lake to various parts of a county that our members use to sell real estate	None
<b>Use of Downstream Tailrace Area</b>		
Use of Tailrace Area	N/A	N/A
Typical Size of Parties	N/A	N/A
Frequency of Use	N/A	N/A
Time of Use (season/day/time)	N/A	N/A
Access Points Used	N/A	N/A
Attributes of Tailrace Area Important to Use	N/A	N/A
Attributes of Tailrace Area Discouraging Use	N/A	N/A
<b>General</b>		
What Reservoirs or river segments in Oconee River basin, does your group frequent?	N/A	None
What other reservoirs in the area (1-hour drive) does your group use for its usual activities?	Lake Sinclair	None

TABLE 15  
Summary of Interviews with User Groups

<b>BIG Restaurants LLC dba Bone Island Grillhouse</b>		<b>Lake Oconee Bassmasters, Inc.</b>
<b>Organization</b>		
Type of Organization	Private	Private organization open to members of BASS, BASS NATION, and Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation
Purpose or Mission	Restaurant	To stimulate public awareness of bass fishing as a major sport. To offer our state conservation department our organized moral and political support and encouragement. TO promote full adherence to all conservation codes and to demand adequate water standards. To detect and report polluters and call public and political attention to this crime. To improve our skills as bass anglers through fellowship of friendly exchange of expert bass-catching techniques and ideas, and to promote and encourage youth fishing, and a love for this great recreation and to function as a dynamic and effective link with our chapters.
Number of Participants	N/A	12
Proximity of Participants	<10 miles 80% of time, 30-50 miles	Some travel about 50 miles but most about 15 miles
<b>Use of Lake Oconee</b>		
Groups Use of Lake Oconee	Docks for access to restaurant lakeside dining	We fish about four of our monthly club bass tournaments on the lake
Typical Party Size	300-800	10 members on average
Frequency of Use in a Year	365	4 times per year
Time of Use (season/day/times)	Year round	We fish year round and our tournament Saturdays from safe light until 3:00pm
Areas Used Most Frequently	Lower Reservoir	Upper Reservoir, Middle Reservoir, Lower Reservoir, and Richland Creek
Access Points	N/A	Access ramps in the MR, LR, and RC areas
Attributes of Impoundment Important to Use	Waterfront access. Docks	The lake is close to most of our members. The fishing is good and the boat ramps are in locations that are good for us
Attributes of Impoundment Discouraging Use	N/A	We try to avoid fishing on Oconee from Memorial Day weekend until after Labor Day Weekend due to heavy boat traffic

TABLE 15  
Summary of Interviews with User Groups

BIG Restaurants LLC dba Bone Island Grillhouse		Lake Oconee Bassmasters, Inc.
<b>Quality of Existing Access to Lake Oconee</b>		
Perception of Adequacy of Existing Access and/or facilities along Lake Oconee	Adequate	Good
What Additional Access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your use of the reservoir?	None	We wish there was a mega ramp on Lake Oconee that would have parking for 300 boats and vehicles, launch ramps for 6 boats at a time, nice restrooms, and a nice weigh in facility. We also need handicapped accessible facilities and boat boarding and unloading ramps.
<b>Use of Downstream Tailrace Area</b>		
Use of Tailrace Area	N/A	N/A
Typical Size of Parties	N/A	N/A
Frequency of Use	N/A	N/A
Time of Use (season/day/time)	N/A	N/A
Access Points Used	N/A	N/A
Attributes of Tailrace Area Important to Use	N/A	N/A
Attributes of Tailrace Area Discouraging Use	N/A	N/A
<b>General</b>		
What Reservoirs or river segments in Oconee River basin, does your group frequent?	Lake Sinclair	Lake Sinclair
What other reservoirs in the area (1-hour drive) does your group use for its usual activities?	N/A	Lake Sinclair

TABLE 15  
Summary of Interviews with User Groups

Rock Island Coves POA		Salem Plantation Homeowners Association
<b>Organization</b>		
Type of Organization	Private	Private
Purpose or Mission	Property Owners Association	Governing the improvements, use, enjoyment, occupancy, and ownership of the property which constitutes Salem Plantation homeowners
Number of Participants	150	Board consists of 5 members; homeowners amount to 55 properties
Proximity of Participants	Local and 200 miles	Lake Access Lots
<b>Use of Lake Oconee</b>		
Groups Use of Lake Oconee	Recreation and Residential	Fishing, boating, and other water activities
Typical Party Size	Family	Family
Frequency of Use in a Year	Daily on weekends/vacation	Year round
Time of Use (season/day/times)	Annually	Year round
Areas Used Most Frequently	Lower Reservoir	Lower Reservoir
Access Points	LR	Access from Three coves adjacent (Just south of Hwy 44 Bridge)
Attributes of Impoundment Important to Use	Water Level and Clean Property	Lake allows homeowners to fish, boat, and participate in other water activities
Attributes of Impoundment Discouraging Use	None	The color (due to runoff) may discourage some people from swimming
<b>Quality of Existing Access to Lake Oconee</b>		
Perception of Adequacy of Existing Access and/or facilities along Lake Oconee	Good	Access is fine and marinas offer good opportunities to get gas
What Additional Access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your use of the reservoir?	N/A	None
<b>Use of Downstream Tailrace Area</b>		
Use of Tailrace Area	N/A	N/A
Typical Size of Parties	N/A	N/A

TABLE 15  
Summary of Interviews with User Groups

	Rock Island Coves POA	Salem Plantation Homeowners Association
Frequency of Use	N/A	N/A
Time of Use (season/day/time)	N/A	N/A
Access Points Used	N/A	N/A
Attributes of Tailrace Area Important to Use	N/A	N/A
Attributes of Tailrace Area Discouraging Use	N/A	N/A
<b>General</b>		
What Reservoirs or river segments in Oconee River basin, does your group frequent?	N/A	None
What other reservoirs in the area (1-hour drive) does your group use for its usual activities?	N/A	Lake Sinclair



TABLE 15  
Summary of Interviews with User Groups

<b>Eatonton-Putnam County Chamber of Commerce</b>		<b>Lake Oconee Anglers</b>
<b>Organization</b>		
Type of Organization	Private (non-profit)	Private
Purpose or Mission	Promoting economic prosperity and tourism for our community	Large Mouth Bass Fishing Club
Number of Participants	375 business members	Approx. 60
Proximity of Participants	Promote Lake Oconee and Sinclair to tourists, relocating retirees, business relocations. We literally promote all over the world	1 to 3 miles
<b>Use of Lake Oconee</b>		
Groups Use of Lake Oconee	Promote lake as an economic engine for our community as well as middle Georgia area	Bass fishing tournaments
Typical Party Size	Individual families and groups	12 boats, 2 people per boat
Frequency of Use in a Year	Daily	10 tournaments per year
Time of Use (season/day/times)	365 days/year	Tuesdays; Typically 1 tournament per month from March through November
Areas Used Most Frequently	Middle Reservoir and Lower Reservoir	Middle Reservoir, Lower Reservoir, and Richland Creek
Access Points	MR, LR, and TR	Lake Club or Plantation Marina
Attributes of Impoundment Important to Use	Keeping it as a natural resource, constant water levels, hydro-generating, and wonderful GP parks	Safe lake, hazards well marked, and healthy fish population
Attributes of Impoundment Discouraging Use	More public access with boat ramps	Pump back operations eliminates thermocline in summer. This has negative effect on fishing
<b>Quality of Existing Access to Lake Oconee</b>		
Perception of Adequacy of Existing Access and/or facilities along Lake Oconee	Three parks are wonderful but have received inquiries as to why they aren't open year-round	Good
What Additional Access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your use of the reservoir?	Day tourists and visitors would like more public access points and easier boat launches	None
<b>Use of Downstream Tailrace Area</b>		
Use of Tailrace Area	Oconee Springs Park is a huge draw to tourists, campers, and boaters. County gov't hopes to expand the park in size	N/A

TABLE 15  
Summary of Interviews with User Groups

	<b>Eatonton-Putnam County Chamber of Commerce</b>	<b>Lake Oconee Anglers</b>
Typical Size of Parties	Large to small	N/A
Frequency of Use	N/A	N/A
Time of Use (season/day/time)	365 days/year	N/A
Access Points Used	N/A	N/A
Attributes of Tailrace Area Important to Use	N/A	N/A
Attributes of Tailrace Area Discouraging Use	Lack of boat launch sites, and others we are not aware of. Not enough facilities in area	N/A
<b>General</b>		
What Reservoirs or river segments in Oconee River basin, does your group frequent?	Lake Sinclair	None
What other reservoirs in the area (1-hour drive) does your group use for its usual activities?	Lake Sinclair	Reynolds Ponds

TABLE 15  
Summary of Interviews with User Groups

	Palmetto Moon Hotel Associates, LLC dba Lodge on Lake Oconee	The Wharf at Harbor Club
<b>Organization</b>		
Type of Organization	Private	Private Homeowners Association
Purpose or Mission	Operate a hotel on Lake Oconee	Association Management
Number of Participants	3 partners but have about 15,000 hotel guests per year	30 townhomes
Proximity of Participants	Mostly Georgia	Some live here and some travel
<b>Use of Lake Oconee</b>		
Groups Use of Lake Oconee	Hotel that has lodging and boat docks	Boating, fishing, and swimming
Typical Party Size	Varies	2-4
Frequency of Use in a Year	Daily	8 year-round guests and 22 week-enders
Time of Use (season/day/times)	Busiest from April to November	Continuously
Areas Used Most Frequently	Middle Reservoir	Richland Creek
Access Points	MR	Private docks at Harbor Club and Boathouse
Attributes of Impoundment Important to Use	Water sports, fishing, and scenery	Ability to boat, fish, and swim
Attributes of Impoundment Discouraging Use	None	None
<b>Quality of Existing Access to Lake Oconee</b>		
Perception of Adequacy of Existing Access and/or facilities along Lake Oconee	Good	Adequate
What Additional Access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your use of the reservoir?	Tours	None needed but would appreciate it if we could have boat lifts at our docks
<b>Use of Downstream Tailrace Area</b>		
Use of Tailrace Area	None	Occasional boating and fishing
Typical Size of Parties	N/A	2-4
Frequency of Use	N/A	Not often
Time of Use (season/day/time)	N/A	Anytime

TABLE 15  
Summary of Interviews with User Groups

	Palmetto Moon Hotel Associates, LLC dba Lodge on Lake Oconee	The Wharf at Harbor Club
Access Points Used	N/A	From our docks
Attributes of Tailrace Area Important to Use	N/A	None
Attributes of Tailrace Area Discouraging Use	N/A	None
<b>General</b>		
What Reservoirs or river segments in Oconee River basin, does your group frequent?	N/A	N/A
What other reservoirs in the area (1-hour drive) does your group use for its usual activities?	N/A	N/A

TABLE 15  
Summary of Interviews with User Groups

Lake Oconee Bassmasters	
<b>Organization</b>	
Type of Organization	Non-governmental
Purpose or Mission	Tournament fishing club
Number of Participants	12
Proximity of Participants	30-40 miles
<b>Use of Lake Oconee</b>	
Groups Use of Lake Oconee	Bass fishing tournaments
Typical Party Size	10
Frequency of Use in a Year	6 times per year
Time of Use (season/day/times)	Winter, spring, Saturday daylight to 3pm
Areas Used Most Frequently	Lower Reservoir and Richland Creek
Access Points	Armour Bridge
Attributes of Impoundment Important to Use	Good fishing and safety
Attributes of Impoundment Discouraging Use	Too much boat traffic
<b>Quality of Existing Access to Lake Oconee</b>	
Perception of Adequacy of Existing Access and/or facilities along Lake Oconee	Adequate, would like to see public ramp in Richland Creek arm that is not associated with Reynolds Plantation
What Additional Access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your use of the reservoir?	See better ADA features at the facilities, wheelchair accessible bathrooms and ramps
<b>Use of Downstream Tailrace Area</b>	
Use of Tailrace Area	N/A
Typical Size of Parties	N/A
Frequency of Use	N/A
Time of Use (season/day/time)	N/A

TABLE 15  
Summary of Interviews with User Groups

Lake Oconee Bassmasters	
Access Points Used	N/A
Attributes of Tailrace Area Important to Use	N/A
Attributes of Tailrace Area Discouraging Use	N/A
<b>General</b>	
What Reservoirs or river segments in Oconee River basin, does your group frequent?	Lake Sinclair
What other reservoirs in the area (1-hour drive) does your group use for its usual activities?	Lake Sinclair

TABLE 16  
Summary of Interviews with Facility Providers

Blue Springs Marina		Jones Petroleum Company
<b>Organization</b>		
Type of Organization	Private	Private
Purpose or Mission	Provides boat storage and small campground with gas and convenience store	Own/operate a convenience store, gas station, and dry boat storage facility on Lake Oconee
<b>Use of Lake Oconee</b>		
Types of Access and/or Facilities Provided	We have a 24 hour access ramp, 15 camper lots, picnic area, and provide boat storage where we launch boats	We have public access docks where boaters park to use our convenience store, Subway restaurant, or fuel their vessels with gas. We have a public access boat ramp, from which to launch vessels
Are Facilities Public Use?	Yes	Yes
Primary Reason for Visit	Boat ramp use, bait and tackle, camping, and use of retail store with on water gas	To fuel and/or launch their cars/boats/jet skis, etc. To eat at subway or shop at our convenience store. To use our dry boat storage facility.
Time of Use (season/day/times)	All seasons; highest boat ramp use is in the spring early in the day. Store boats year round. Boat ramp is open 24/7/365	7 days per week, from 5a to 9p
Type of Fee Charged	Boat ramp \$5.00; Boat storage \$100/month; Camper sites \$30/day	\$5 boat ramp charge and monthly storage fees for dry boat storage
State and County of Customers	Georgia: Newton, Morgan, DeKalb, Rockdale, and Walton Counties	All over Georgia but majority is local customer base.
Areas Used Most Frequently	Upper Reservoir	Lower Reservoir
Number of Customers (annual)	Estimate 1,500	Estimate over 5,000
Attributes of Impoundment Important to Use	Fishing is most important to customers here, recreation is second	Steady lake level, clean water, and good fishing
Attributes of Impoundment Discouraging Use	Underwater trees destroy their boats	Not enough dock space to accommodate all customers
<b>Use of Downstream Tailrace Area</b>		
Facilities Provided in Tailrace Area	N/A	N/A
Primary Reason for Tailrace Visit	N/A	N/A
Number of Customers Using Tailrace Area Facilities	N/A	N/A
Attributes of Tailrace Area Important to Use	N/A	N/A
Attributes of Tailrace Area Discouraging Use	N/A	N/A

TABLE 16  
Summary of Interviews with Facility Providers

Lawrence Shoals Campground, Janis Boyd		Old Salem Campground
<b>Organization</b>		
Type of Organization	Private (Georgia Power Park Host)	Private (Georgia Power Park Host)
Purpose or Mission	Operate gate and control entrance. Welcome visitors and collect fees for Georgia Power	Operating campground and day use area
<b>Use of Lake Oconee</b>		
Types of Access and/or Facilities Provided	Boat ramp, beach area, pavilion, and campground	RV and tent camping, swimming, boating, fishing, picnicking, playground, three shower houses, 2 restrooms, water and electric
Are Facilities Public Use?	Yes	Yes
Primary Reason for Visit	Camping, hiking, water activities, fishing and boating	Camping, fishing, boating, picnicking, and swimming
Time of Use (season/day/times)	March 1 – September 5. Gate opens at 7am and closes at 9pm and 10pm on Fri and Sat	March – October, 7am – 10pm daily
Type of Fee Charged	Day parking - \$5 which covers picnic area, pavilion, boat ramp and beach. Tent camping - \$18 and RV camping - \$20	RV - \$20/day and tents - \$18/day, day use - \$5/car
State and County of Customers	Mostly Georgia	Greene, Putnam, Morgan, Oconee, Baldwin, Jasper, Henry, Spalding, Rockdale, and Monroe
Areas Used Most Frequently	Lower Reservoir	Middle Reservoir and Lower Reservoir
Number of Customers (annual)	9,000 – 10,000	Approx. 18,000 campers and 15,000 day use
Attributes of Impoundment Important to Use	Fishing near the Dam	Cleanliness of facilities, easy access, friendliness of camp hosts
Attributes of Impoundment Discouraging Use	None	Campsites and bathhouses not cleaned, overcrowded, lack of campsites, and understaffed
<b>Use of Downstream Tailrace Area</b>		
Facilities Provided in Tailrace Area	Close to Hwy 16 bridge	N/A
Primary Reason for Tailrace Visit	N/A	N/A
Number of Customers Using Tailrace Area Facilities	N/A	N/A
Attributes of Tailrace Area Important to Use	N/A	N/A
Attributes of Tailrace Area Discouraging Use	N/A	N/A



TABLE 16  
Summary of Interviews with Facility Providers

Georgia Wildlife Resources Division		USDA Forest Service, Oconee Ranger District
<b>Organization</b>		
Type of Organization	Governmental	Governmental
Purpose or Mission	Conserving, enhancing, and promoting Georgia's wildlife resources	Sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands
<b>Use of Lake Oconee</b>		
Types of Access and/or Facilities Provided	Access to over 7,000 ac of Wildlife Management Area, static archery range, primitive campgrounds, and multi-use trails	Lake access for fishing, boating, camping, and picnicking
Are Facilities Public Use?	Yes	Yes
Primary Reason for Visit	Hunting and fishing, wildlife watching, archery, biking, and hiking	Fishing, boating, camping, hiking, picnicking, and wildlife viewing
Time of Use (season/day/times)	September to May is peak season	Most areas open year-round for day use w/ exception of campground areas
Type of Fee Charged	WMA stamp is required to hunt on property. All other activities are free	Day use fee and camping fee
State and County of Customers	Georgia; Greene, Hancock, and Putnam Counties	Georgia: Greene, Putnam, Jasper, Morgan, and Jones
Areas Used Most Frequently	Lower Reservoir	Upper Reservoir
Number of Customers (annual)	>10,000	4,000 – 6,500
Attributes of Impoundment Important to Use	Wildlife habitat for hunting and viewing opportunities and fish habitat for fishing	Clean facilities w/ lake visibility, boater access and designated fishing areas
Attributes of Impoundment Discouraging Use	None known	None
<b>Use of Downstream Tailrace Area</b>		
Facilities Provided in Tailrace Area	Three waterfowl impoundments	N/A
Primary Reason for Tailrace Visit	Waterfowl hunting and wildlife viewing	N/A
Number of Customers Using Tailrace Area Facilities	~500	N/A
Attributes of Tailrace Area Important to Use	Managing waterfowl impoundments	N/A
Attributes of Tailrace Area Discouraging Use	None known	N/A

TABLE 17  
Summary of Interviews with Law Enforcement Agencies

	Greene County Sheriff	Putnam County Sheriff
<b>Use of Lake Oconee</b>		
Types of Access/Facilities Important to Users of Lake Oconee	Parks Ferry and Old Salem Campgrounds. Many boat ramps, including Swords, Reynolds, Greene County, Oconee Village, Dyar Pasture, several private boat ramps in subdivisions, Liberty community, and others	Public boat ramps, marinas that sell fuel, boat storage.
Primary Reasons for User Visits	Boat, including fishing, skiing, jet skiing, and pontoon boating. Bird watching groups once per year. Night use is limited mainly to fishing. WMA recreation is primarily fishing.	Camping, boating, and fishing. Of nighttime use, 99 percent is for fishing
Time of Use (season/day/time)	Summer	Memorial Day to Labor Day. Lake use swells every weekend. Jan – April not much lake use.
State and County of Users	Local surrounding counties. Metro Atlanta, Walton, Newton, Rockdale, Barrow, Gwinnett, Clarke, and Oconee Counties	Greene, Putnam, Baldwin, Hancock, and metro Atlanta Counties
Attributes of Impoundment Important to Use	Accessibility and cleanliness	Proximity to metro Atlanta. Lake is pristine from the standpoint of zoning and aesthetics. Lake levels are consistent
Attributes of Impoundment Discouraging Use	None, accessibility is not a problem	Lake becomes very busy on holidays and weekends. Property values contribute to good overall quality of recreational experience
Areas within Jurisdiction with Most Bank Fishing	Greshamville community (C.M. Copeland Road), 278 bridge (Madison Hwy), Swords Road, Carey Station Road, Hwy 44, and bridge crossings.	Hwy 44 near Jerry's Bait and Tackle
<b>Use of Downstream Tailrace Area</b>		
Primary Reasons for User Visits	N/A	Fishing
Attributes of Tailrace Area Important to Use	N/A	Boat ramp on Hancock County side and recreation access in the tailrace is more than adequate
Attributes of Tailrace Area Discouraging Use	N/A	Nothing, but limited number of people willing to fish below large dam

**TABLE 18**  
Forecasted Population Change

Residence (County)	Percent Of Users Surveyed <sup>a</sup>	2010 - 2020 Percent Change	2020 - 2030 Percent Change	2030 - 2040 Percent Change	2040 - 2050 Percent Change	Regional Commission
Putnam Co., GA	10%	2%	1%	-1%	-1%	Region 6: Middle Georgia
DeKalb Co., GA	8%	4%	6%	3%	1%	Region 3: Atlanta Regional Commission
Morgan Co., GA	8%	5%	8%	6%	6%	Region 5: Northeast Georgia
Newton Co., GA	7%	10%	20%	18%	18%	Region 5: Northeast Georgia
Walton Co., GA	7%	10%	20%	18%	18%	Region 5: Northeast Georgia
Columbia Co., GA	5%	13%	26%	24%	23%	Region 7: Central Savannah River Area
Henry Co., GA	5%	10%	20%	17%	16%	Region 3: Atlanta Regional Commission
Greene Co., GA	4%	2%	0%	-2%	-1%	Region 5: Northeast Georgia
Jasper Co., GA	4%	3%	4%	2%	2%	Region 5: Northeast Georgia
Toombs Co., GA	4%	4%	6%	4%	3%	Region 9: Heart of Georgia Altamaha
Houston Co., GA	3%	7%	13%	11%	9%	Region 6: Middle Georgia
Rockdale Co., GA	3%	7%	12%	9%	8%	Region 3: Atlanta Regional Commission
Appling Co., GA	2%	3%	6%	4%	5%	Region 6: Middle Georgia
Baldwin Co., GA	2%	2%	3%	1%	0%	Region 4: Three Rivers
Bibb Co., GA	2%	1%	2%	0%	-1%	Region 3: Atlanta Regional Commission
Butts Co., GA	2%	4%	6%	4%	3%	Region 9: Heart of Georgia Altamaha
Fulton Co., GA	2%	8%	16%	14%	12%	Region 6: Middle Georgia
Gwinnett Co., GA	2%	10%	19%	17%	15%	Region 3: Atlanta Regional Commission
Jones Co., GA	2%	4%	6%	4%	3%	Region 6: Middle Georgia
Laurens Co., GA	2%	3%	4%	2%	1%	Region 9: Heart of Georgia Altamaha
Oconee Co., GA	2%	9%	19%	17%	16%	Region 5: Northeast Georgia
Barrow Co., GA	1%	15%	31%	29%	28%	Region 5: Northeast Georgia
Hancock Co., GA	1%	-7%	-16%	-19%	-18%	Region 7: Central Savannah River Area
Peach Co., GA	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	Region 6: Middle Georgia
24-County Average	89%	5%	10%	8%	7%	
4-County Average	23%	0.1%	-1.8%	-4.1%	-3.5%	

Note: <sup>a</sup>See Table 6, Origin of Users.  
Source: Ryan Pers. Com., 2016.

TABLE 19  
Historical Population Trends in the Region

County	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Greene	16,542	18,512	18,972	12,616	13,709	12,843	11,193	10,212	11,391	11,793	14,406	15,994
Hancock	18,277	19,189	18,357	13,070	12,764	11,052	9,979	9,019	9,466	8,908	10,076	9,402
Morgan	15,813	19,717	20,143	12,488	12,713	11,899	10,280	9,904	11,572	12,883	15,457	17,868
Putnam	13,436	13,876	15,151	8,367	8,514	7,731	7,798	8,394	10,295	14,137	18,812	21,218
<b>4-County Study Area</b>	<b>64,068</b>	<b>71,294</b>	<b>72,623</b>	<b>46,541</b>	<b>47,700</b>	<b>43,525</b>	<b>39,250</b>	<b>37,529</b>	<b>42,724</b>	<b>47,721</b>	<b>58,751</b>	<b>64,482</b>
<b>4-County %Change</b>		<b>10%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>-56%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>-11%</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>9%</b>

Source: GPB (2016).

TABLE 20

Projected Future Annual Recreation Use at Seven Project Recreation Facilities at Lake Oconee

<b>Facilities</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2040</b>	<b>2050</b>
Lawrence Shoals, Old Salem, and Parks Ferry	79,670	83,952	92,097	99,106	106,010
Long Shoals, Sugar Creek, and Armour Bridge	80,588	84,919	93,158	100,248	107,231
Wallace Dam Tailrace	8,989	9,472	10,391	11,182	11,961
Georgia Power Project Recreation Use	169,247	178,343	195,646	210,536	225,202
Non-Georgia Power Recreation Use	435,753	459,174	503,723	542,060	579,818
<b>Total Recreation Use</b>	<b>605,000</b>	<b>637,517</b>	<b>699,369</b>	<b>752,596</b>	<b>805,019</b>
		2015 - 2020	2020 - 2030	2030 - 2040	2040 - 2050
24 County Forecasted Growth Rates		5%	10%	8%	7%

TABLE 21

Observed Parking Space Use at Georgia Power Boat Ramps on Lake Oconee in 2016

	<b>Total Parking Capacity</b>	<b>Average Overall Use Observed</b>	<b>Less than 90% Utilized</b>	<b>Less than 80% Utilized</b>	<b>Less than 50% Utilized</b>	<b>Less than 25% Utilized</b>	<b>Less than 10% Utilized</b>
<b>Long Shoals</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>15</b>					
Frequency (greater than average)		48%	100%	97%	69%	31%	3%
Spaces Filled (Less Than)			31	27	17	9	3
<b>Sugar Creek</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>14</b>					
Frequency (greater than average)		54%	100%	100%	61%	15%	9%
Spaces Filled (Less Than)			33	30	19	9	4
<b>Armour Bridge</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>12</b>					
Frequency (greater than average)		61%	100%	100%	87%	35%	16%
Spaces Filled (Less Than)			36	32	20	10	4

TABLE 22

Average Spring/Summer Observed Parking Space Use and Projected Parking Space Use at Georgia Power Boat Ramps on Lake Oconee

Location	Total Parking Capacity	Average Observed Spring/Summer Use in 2016	Peak Observed Use in 2016	Projected Average Spring/Summer Use in:			
				2020 <sup>a</sup>	2030 <sup>a</sup>	2040 <sup>a</sup>	2050 <sup>a</sup>
Long Shoals	34	15	27	16	18	19	20
Sugar Creek	37	14	24	14	16	17	18
Armour Bridge	40	12	26	13	14	15	16

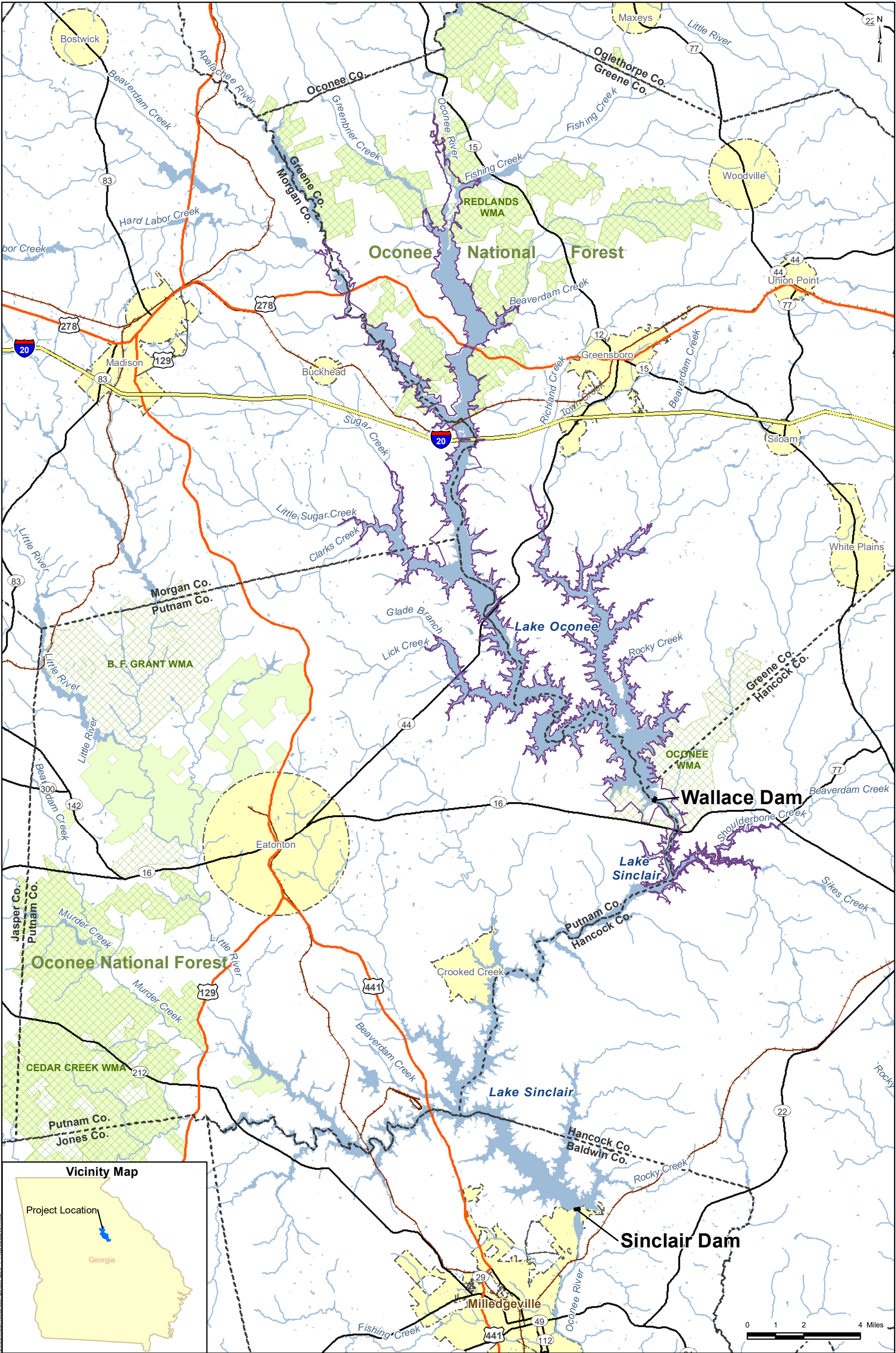
<sup>a</sup> Assumes growth in demands for parking spaces will follow the projected population growth presented in Table 20.

TABLE 23  
Land Use in the Wallace Dam Project Area

Type	Project Boundary		Additional Land within 2,000 foot Beyond Project Boundary	
	Area (Acres)	Percent of Total	Area (Acres)	Percent of Total
Deciduous Forest	2,110	8%	17,265	30%
Evergreen Forest	1,108	4%	16,545	29%
Herbaceous	964	4%	6,215	11%
Developed, Open Space	329	1%	5,144	9%
Hay/Pasture	369	1%	4,613	8%
Mixed Forest	156	1%	2,204	4%
Shrub/Scrub	112	<1%	1,630	3%
Woody Wetlands	1,355	5%	1,592	3%
Open Water	18,922	74%	839	1%
Developed, Low Intensity	128	1%	583	1%
Barren Land	46	<1%	360	1%
Developed, Medium Intensity	15	<1%	197	<1%
Developed, High Intensity	4	<1%	31	<1%
Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands	19	<1%	5	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,638</b>		<b>57,223</b>	



## FIGURES



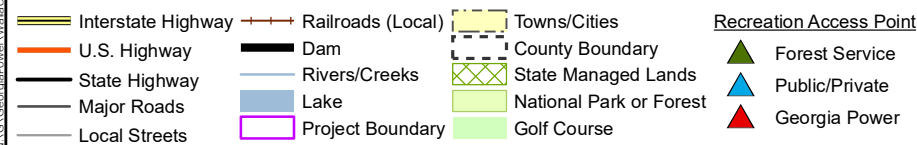
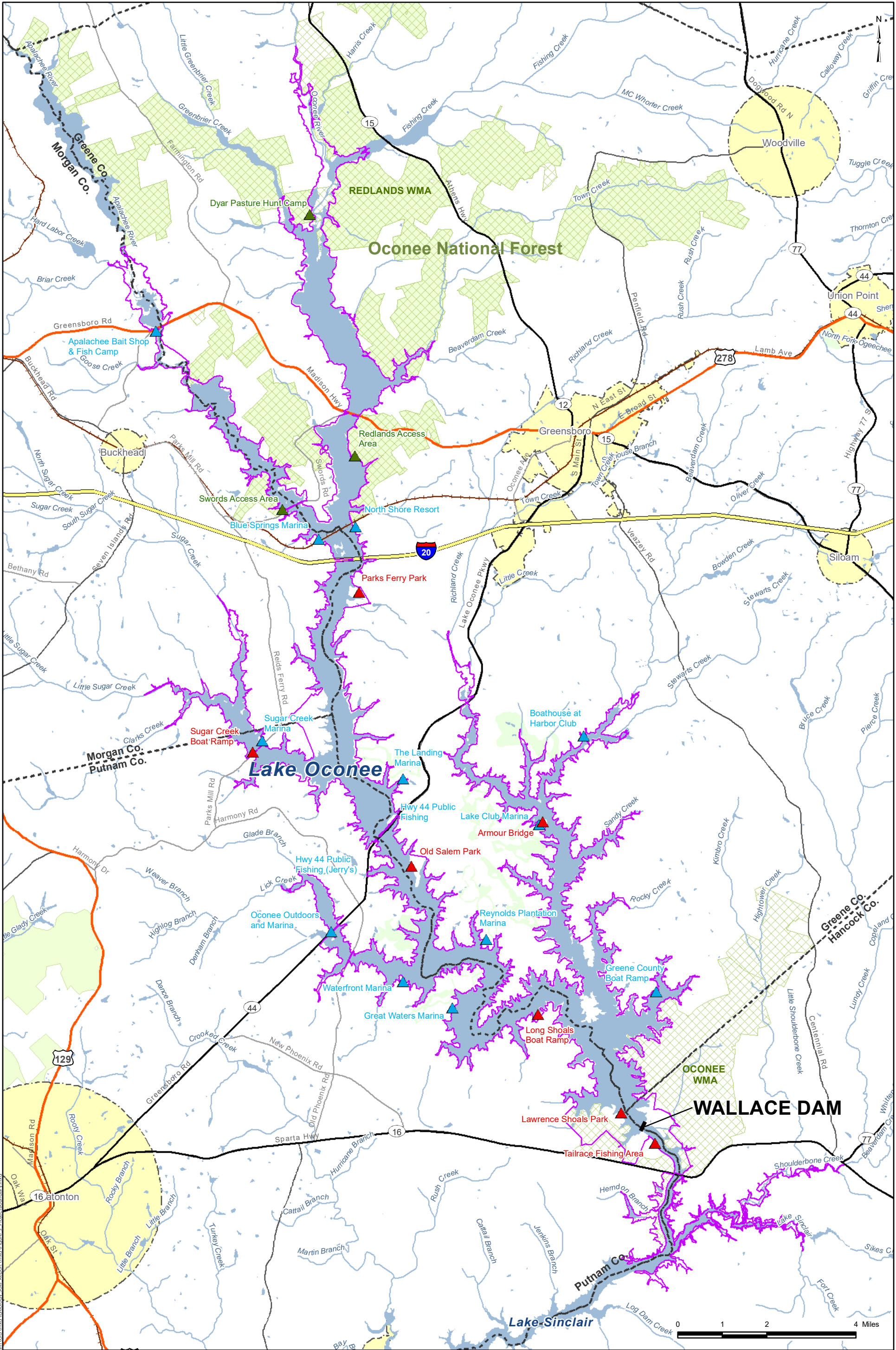
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| Interstate Highway | Railroads (Local) | County Boundary         |
| U.S. Highway       | Dam               | Project Boundary        |
| State Highway      | Rivers            | State Managed Lands     |
| County Road        | Lake              | National Park or Forest |
| Minor Road         | Towns/Cities      |                         |



**Figure 1**  
**Project Location on the Oconee River**

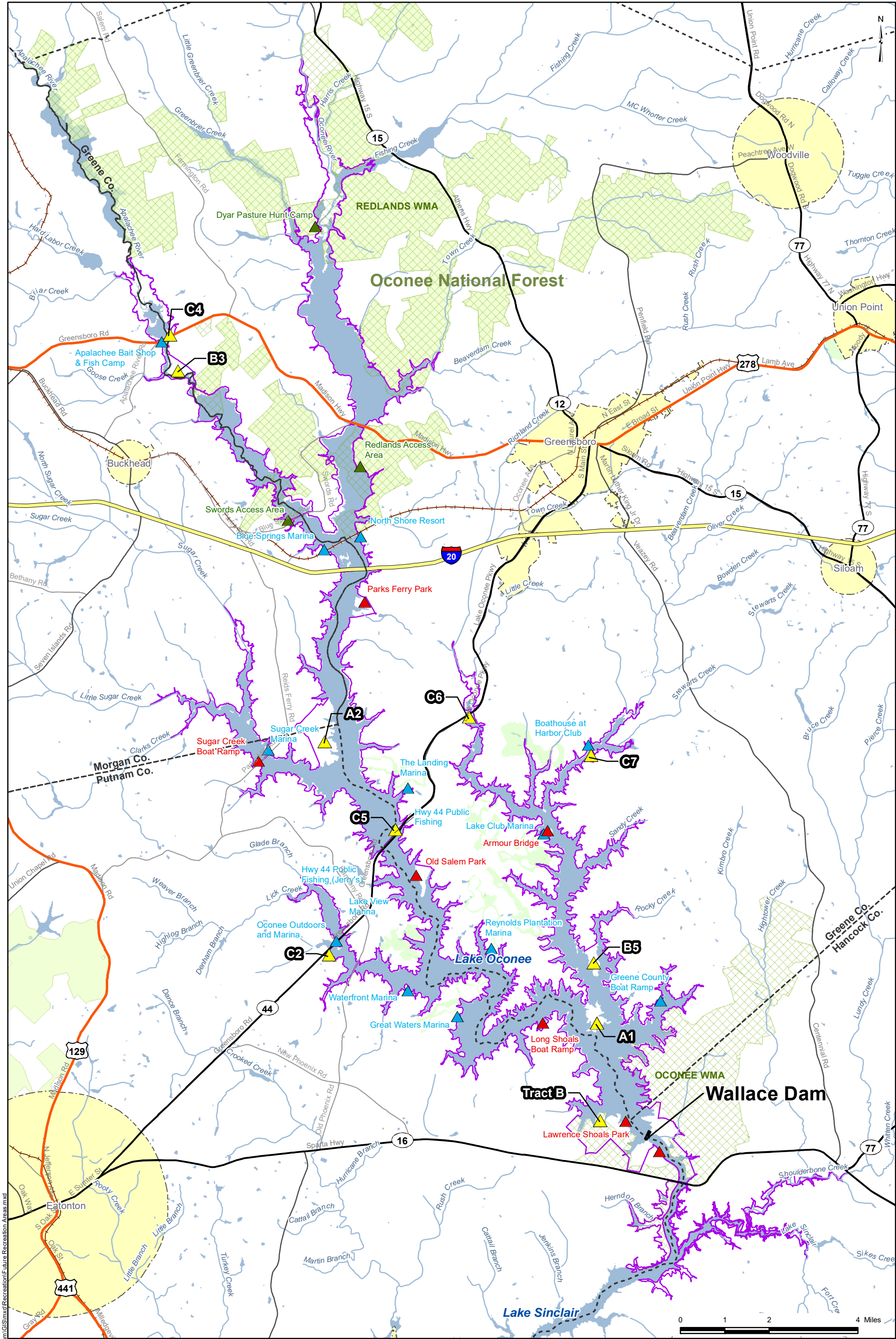
Wallace Dam Project  
(FERC No. 2413)



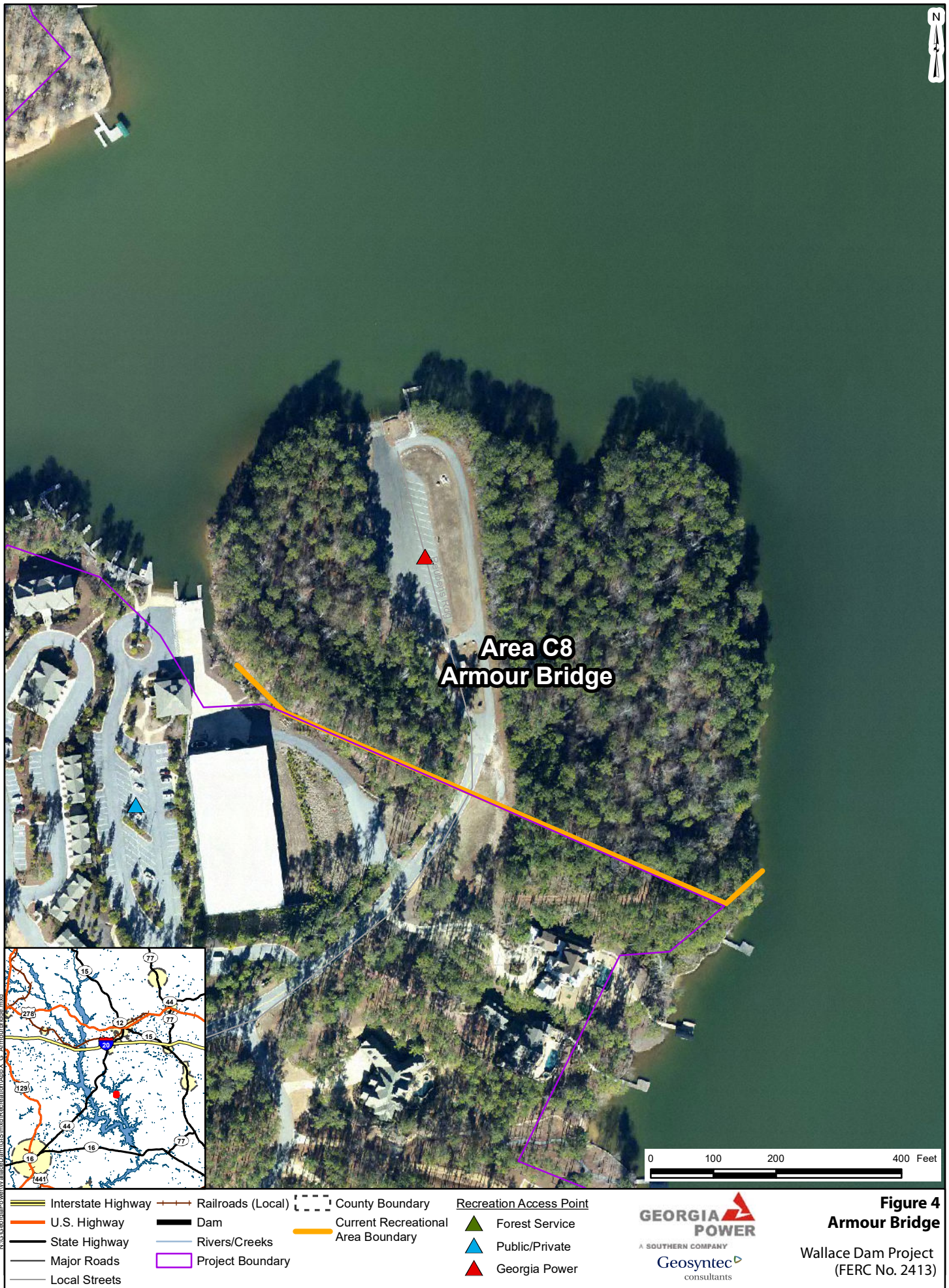


**Figure 2**  
**Project Boundary and Surrounding Area**  
Wallace Dam Project  
(FERC No. 2413)

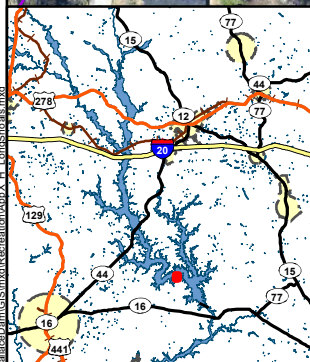










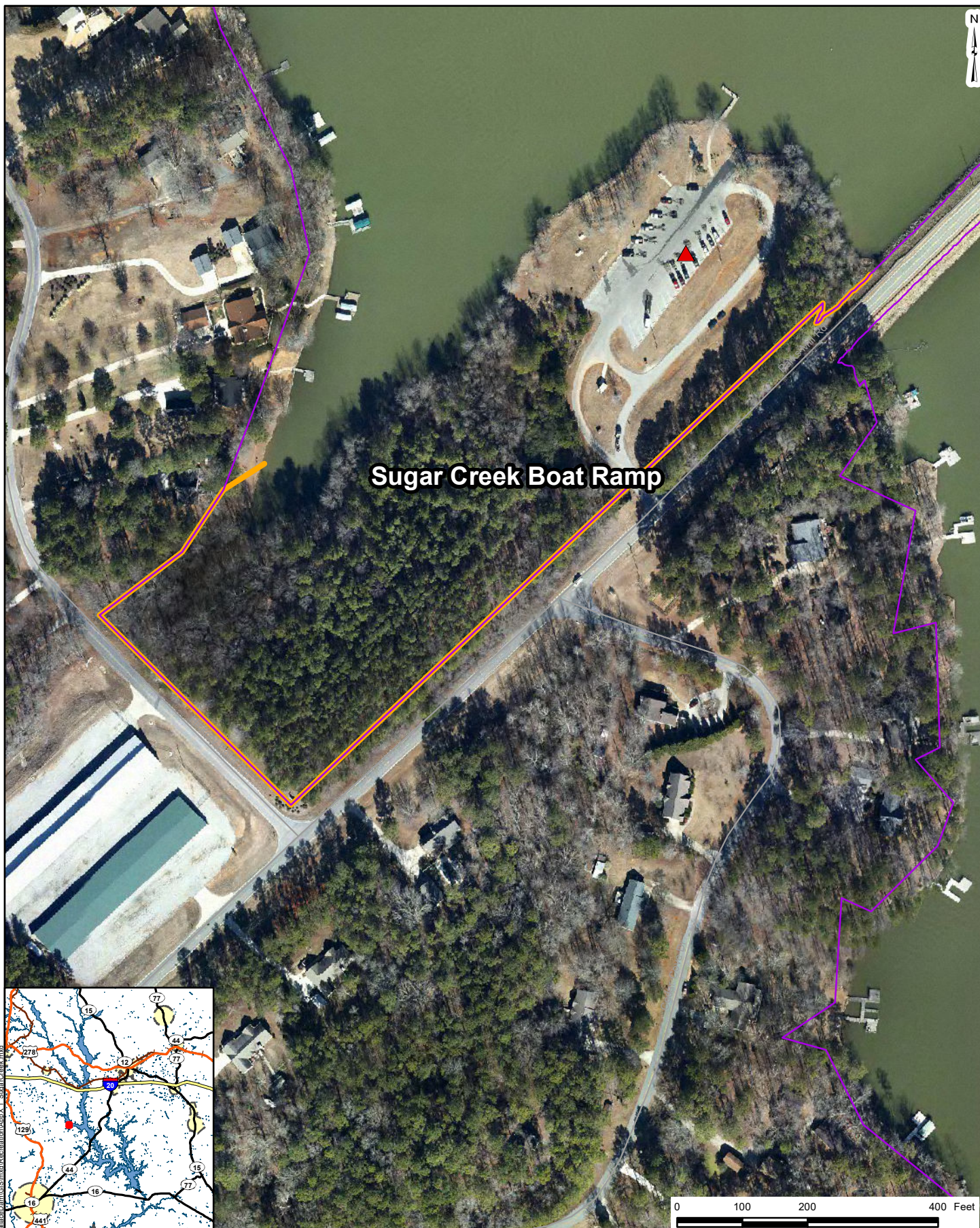


- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interstate Highway</li> <li>U.S. Highway</li> <li>State Highway</li> <li>Major Roads</li> <li>Local Streets</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Railroads (Local)</li> <li>Dam</li> <li>Rivers/Creeks</li> <li>Project Boundary</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County Boundary</li> <li>Current Recreation Area Boundary</li> </ul> | <b>Recreation Access Point</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest Service</li> <li>Public/Private</li> <li>Georgia Power</li> </ul> |
|---|---|---|--|



**Figure 5**  
**Long Shoals Boat Ramp**  
Wallace Dam Project  
(FERC No. 2413)





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- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: green;">—</span> Interstate Highway</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">—</span> U.S. Highway</li> <li><span style="color: black;">—</span> State Highway</li> <li><span style="color: gray;">—</span> Major Roads</li> <li><span style="color: gray;">—</span> Local Streets</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: brown;">—</span> Railroads (Local)</li> <li><span style="color: black;">—</span> Dam</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">—</span> Rivers/Creeks</li> <li><span style="color: purple;">—</span> Project Boundary</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="border: 1px dashed black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span> County Boundary</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">—</span> Current Recreational Area Boundary</li> </ul> | <b>Recreation Access Point</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: green;">▲</span> Forest Service</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">▲</span> Public/Private</li> <li><span style="color: red;">▲</span> Georgia Power</li> </ul> |
|---|---|---|--|



**Figure 6**  
**Sugar Creek Boat Ramp**  
Wallace Dam Project  
(FERC No. 2413)









# **Area B2 Old Salem Park**

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interstate Highway</li> <li>U.S. Highway</li> <li>State Highway</li> <li>Major Roads</li> <li>Local Streets</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Railroads (Local)</li> <li>Dam</li> <li>Rivers/Creeks</li> <li>Project Boundary</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County Boundary</li> <li>Current Recreational Area Boundary</li> </ul> | <b>Recreation Access Point</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest Service</li> <li>Public/Private</li> <li>Georgia Power</li> </ul> |
|---|---|---|--|



**Figure 8  
Old Salem Park**

Wallace Dam Project  
(FERC No. 2413)

















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|---|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: green;">—</span> Interstate Highway</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">—</span> U.S. Highway</li> <li><span style="color: black;">—</span> State Highway</li> <li><span style="color: gray;">—</span> Major Roads</li> <li><span style="color: gray;">—</span> Local Streets</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: brown;">—+—</span> Railroads (Local)</li> <li><span style="color: black;">—</span> Dam</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">—</span> Rivers/Creeks</li> <li><span style="color: purple;">—</span> Project Boundary</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="border: 1px dashed black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span> County Boundary</li> <li><span style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span> Future Recreational Area Boundary</li> </ul> | <b>Recreation Access Point</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: green;">▲</span> Forest Service</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">▲</span> Public/Private</li> <li><span style="color: red;">▲</span> Georgia Power</li> </ul> |
|---|---|---|--|



**Figure 12**  
**Area A-2**

Wallace Dam Project  
(FERC No. 2413)





**Area  
B-3**

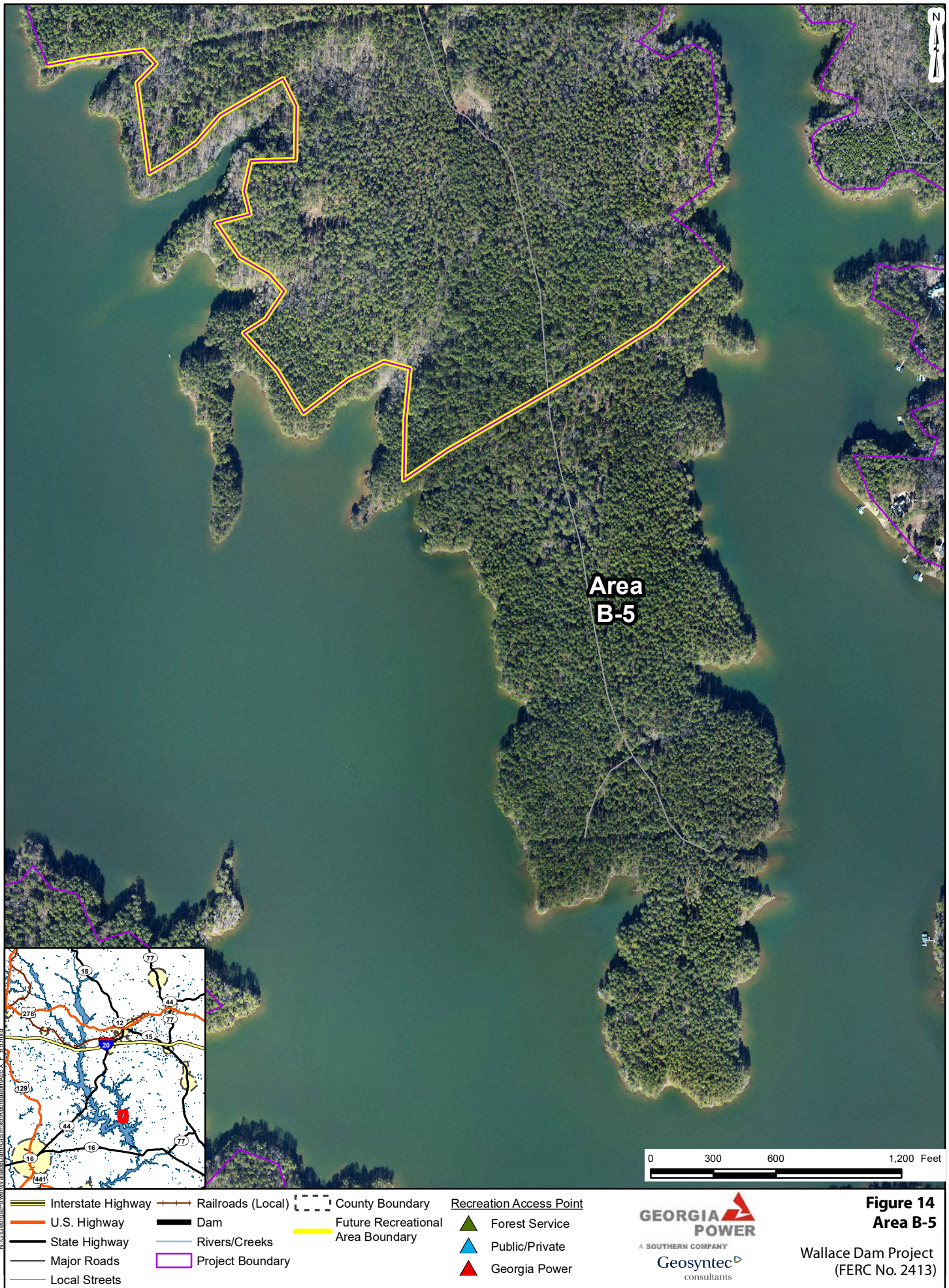
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|---|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: green;">—</span> Interstate Highway</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">—</span> U.S. Highway</li> <li><span style="color: black;">—</span> State Highway</li> <li><span style="color: grey;">—</span> Major Roads</li> <li><span style="color: grey;">—</span> Local Streets</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: brown;">—+—</span> Railroads (Local)</li> <li><span style="color: black;">—</span> Dam</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">—</span> Rivers/Creeks</li> <li><span style="border: 2px solid purple; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span> Project Boundary</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="border-bottom: 2px dashed black; display: inline-block; width: 30px;"></span> County Boundary</li> <li><span style="border-bottom: 2px solid yellow; display: inline-block; width: 30px;"></span> Future Recreational Area Boundary</li> </ul> | <p><b>Recreation Access Point</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: green;">▲</span> Forest Service</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">▲</span> Public/Private</li> <li><span style="color: red;">▲</span> Georgia Power</li> </ul> |
|---|---|--|---|



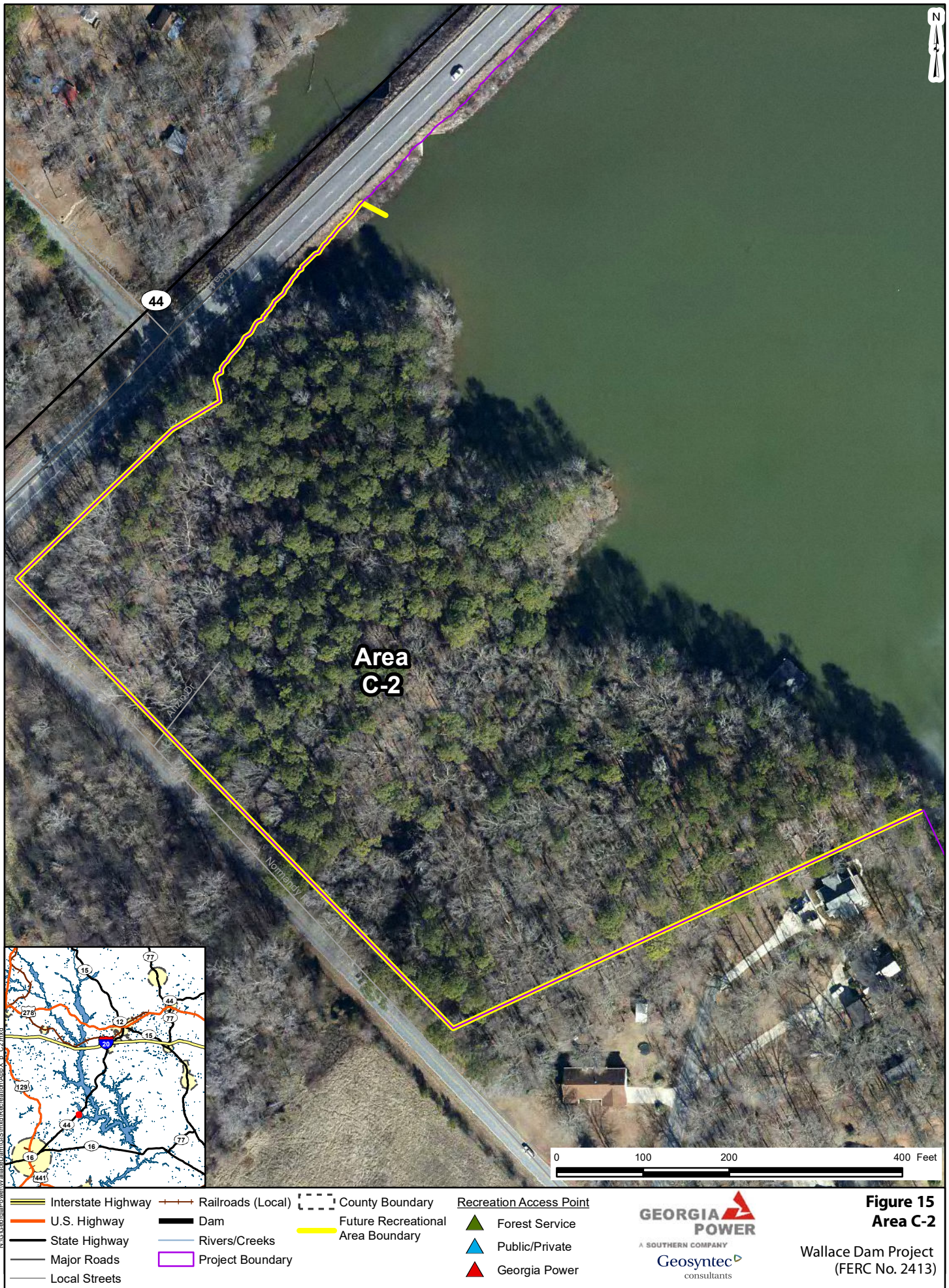
**Figure 13  
Area B-3**

Wallace Dam Project  
(FERC No. 2413)





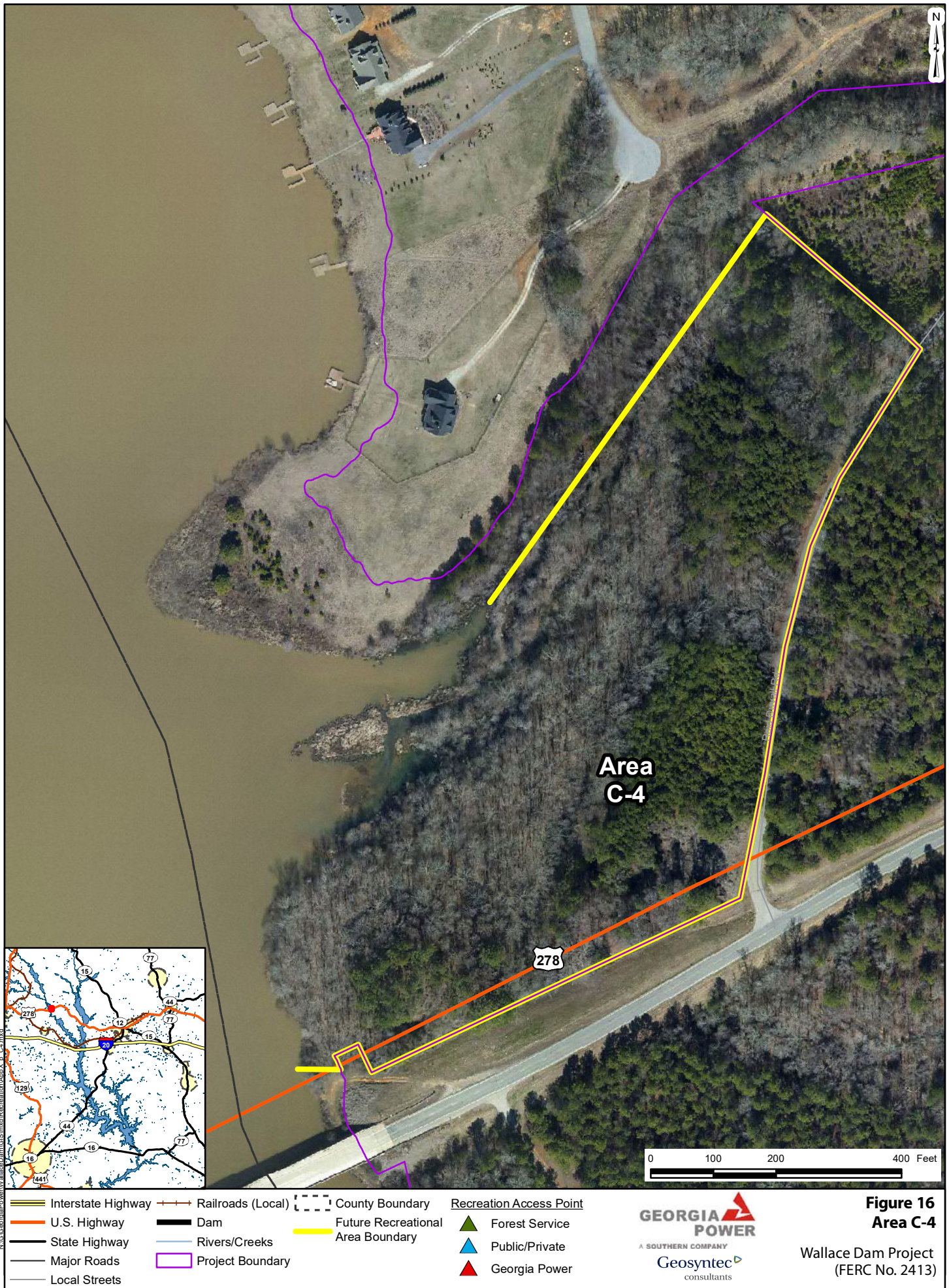




**Figure 15**  
**Area C-2**

Wallace Dam Project  
(FERC No. 2413)

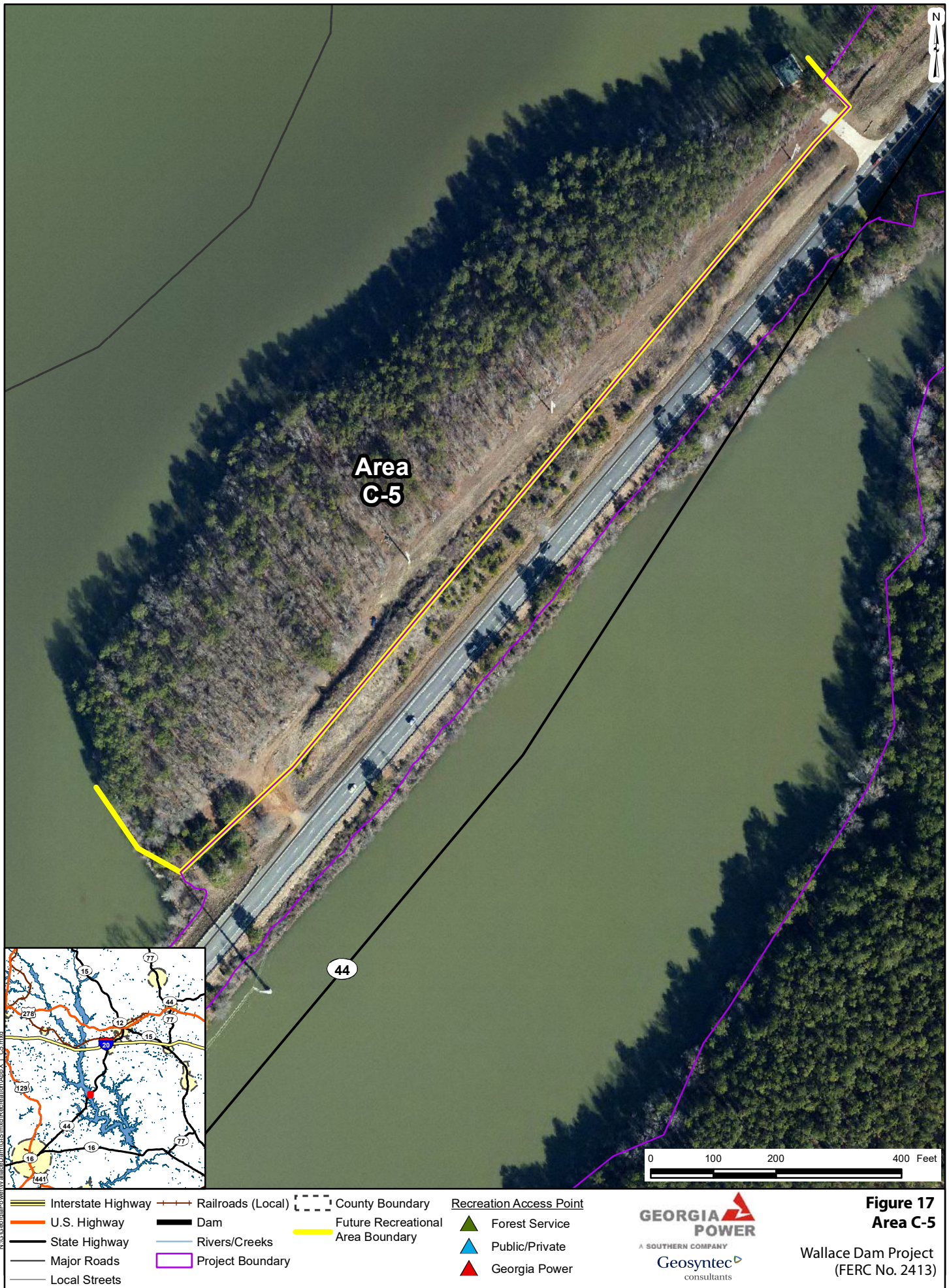




**Figure 16**  
**Area C-4**

Wallace Dam Project  
(FERC No. 2413)





**Figure 17**  
**Area C-5**

Wallace Dam Project  
(FERC No. 2413)





**Figure 18**  
**Area C-6**

Wallace Dam Project  
(FERC No. 2413)





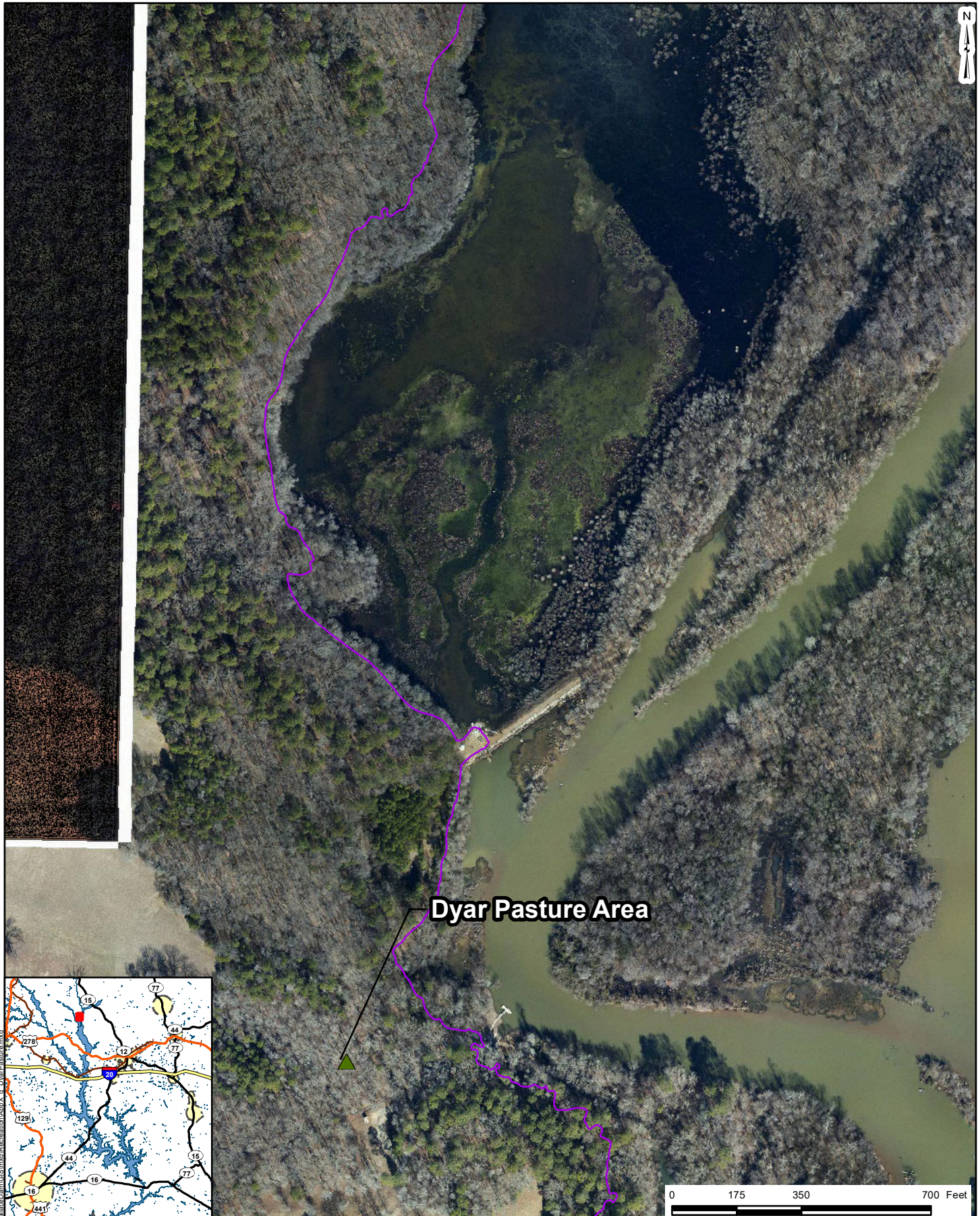
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- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: green;">—</span> Interstate Highway</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">—</span> U.S. Highway</li> <li><span style="color: black;">—</span> State Highway</li> <li><span style="color: gray;">—</span> Major Roads</li> <li><span style="color: gray;">—</span> Local Streets</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: red;">—+—</span> Railroads (Local)</li> <li><span style="color: black;">—</span> Dam</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">—</span> Rivers/Creeks</li> <li><span style="border: 1px solid purple; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span> Project Boundary</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="border: 1px dashed black; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span> County Boundary</li> <li><span style="border: 2px solid yellow; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span> Future Recreational Area Boundary</li> </ul> | <b>Recreation Access Point</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: green;">▲</span> Forest Service</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">▲</span> Public/Private</li> <li><span style="color: red;">▲</span> Georgia Power</li> </ul> |
|---|---|--|--|



**Figure 19**  
**Area C-7**  
Wallace Dam Project  
(FERC No. 2413)





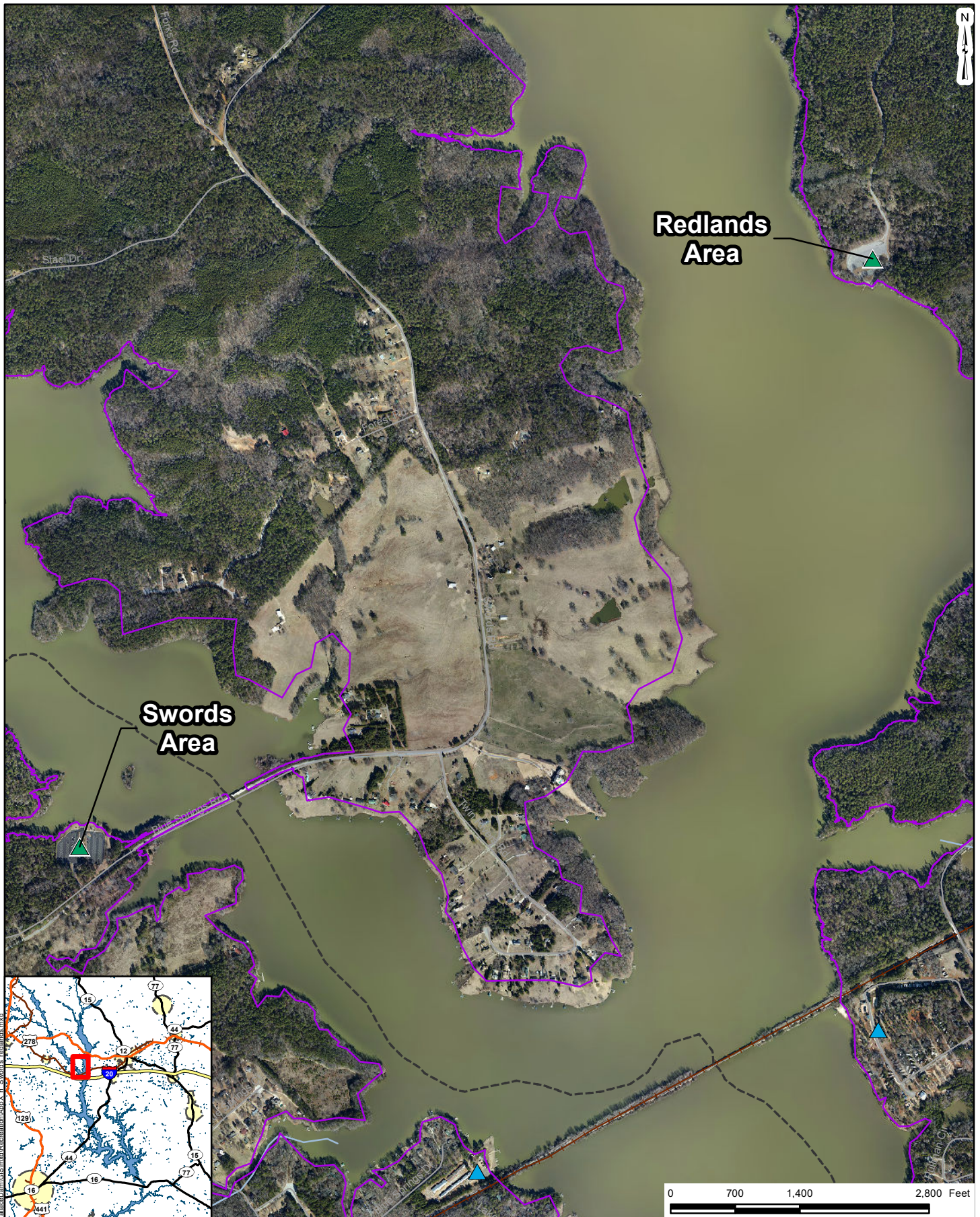
**Dyar Pasture Area**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interstate Highway</li> <li>U.S. Highway</li> <li>State Highway</li> <li>Major Roads</li> <li>Local Streets</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Railroads (Local)</li> <li>Dam</li> <li>Rivers/Creeks</li> <li>Project Boundary</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County Boundary</li> <li>Recreation Access Point</li> <li>Forest Service</li> <li>Public/Private</li> <li>Georgia Power</li> </ul> |
|---|---|---|



**Figure 20 Dyar Pasture Recreation Area**  
Wallace Dam Project  
(FERC No. 2413)



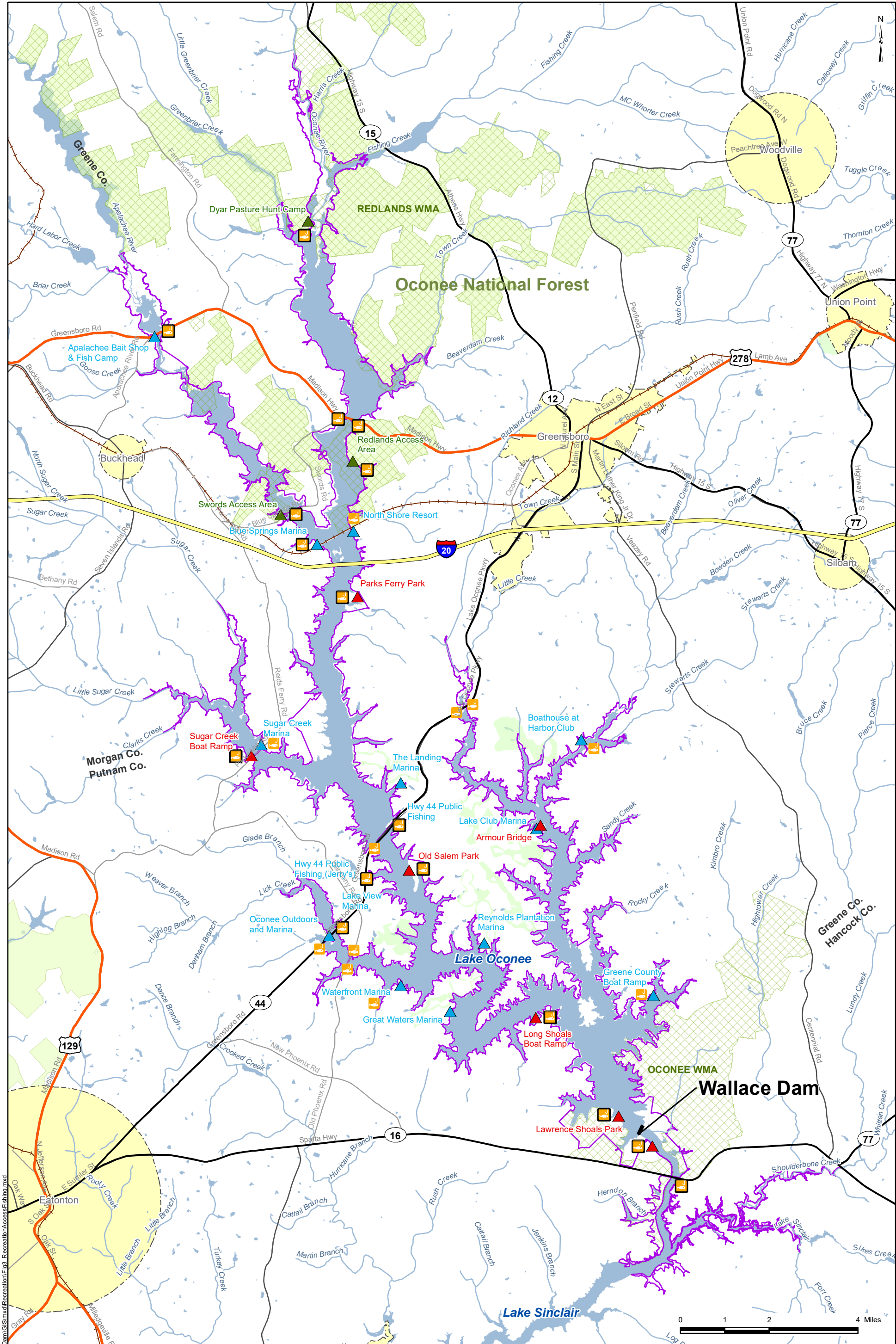


- Interstate Highway    Railroads (Local)    County Boundary    Recreation Access Point  
 U.S. Highway    Dam    Forest Service  
 State Highway    Rivers/Creeks    Public/Private  
 Major Roads    Project Boundary    Georgia Power  
 Local Streets



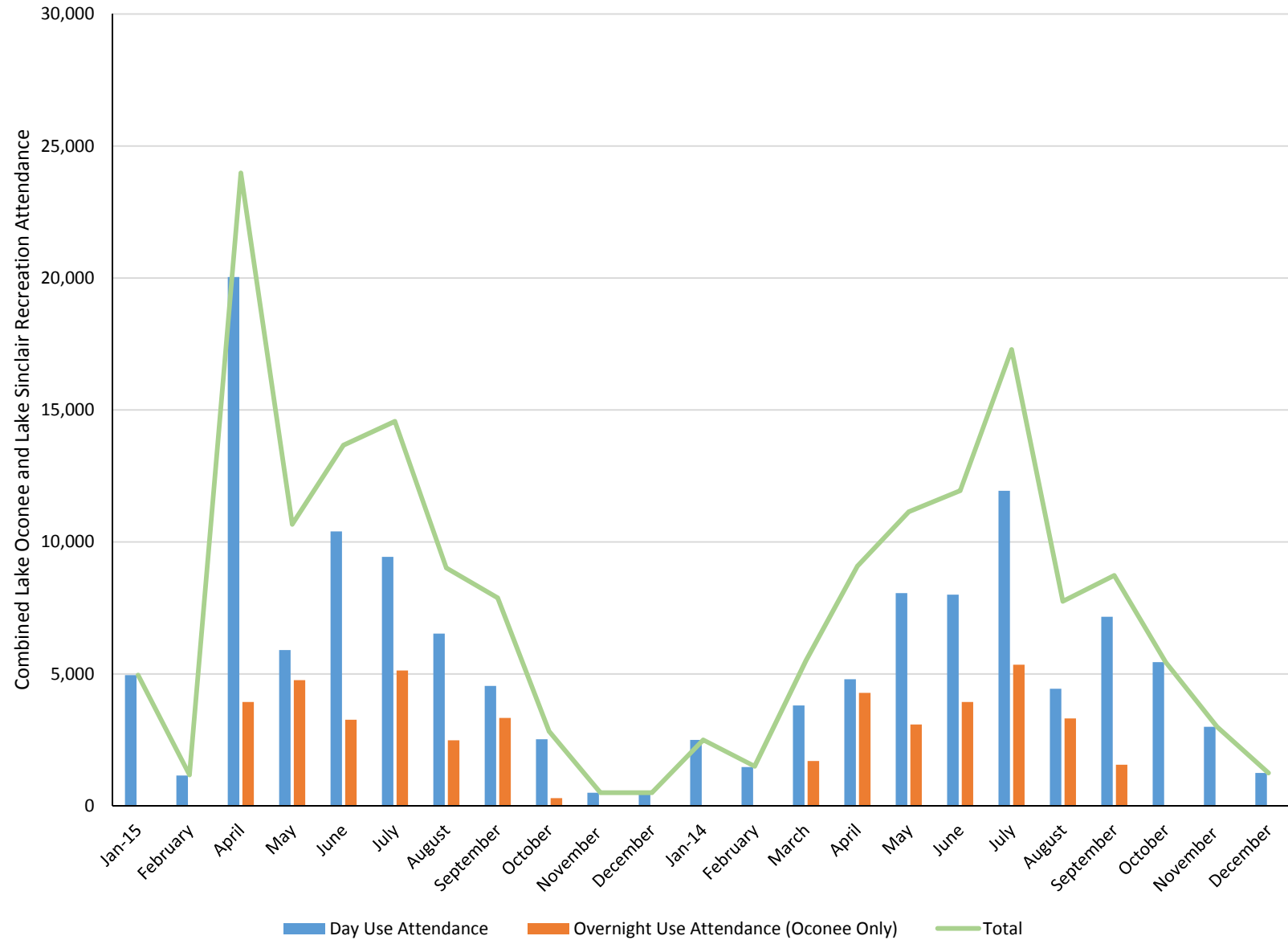
**Figure 21**  
**Swords and Redlands**  
**Recreation Area**  
 Wallace Dam Project  
 (FERC No. 2413)





**Figure 22**  
**Bank Fishing Areas**  
Wallace Dam Project  
(FERC No. 2413)

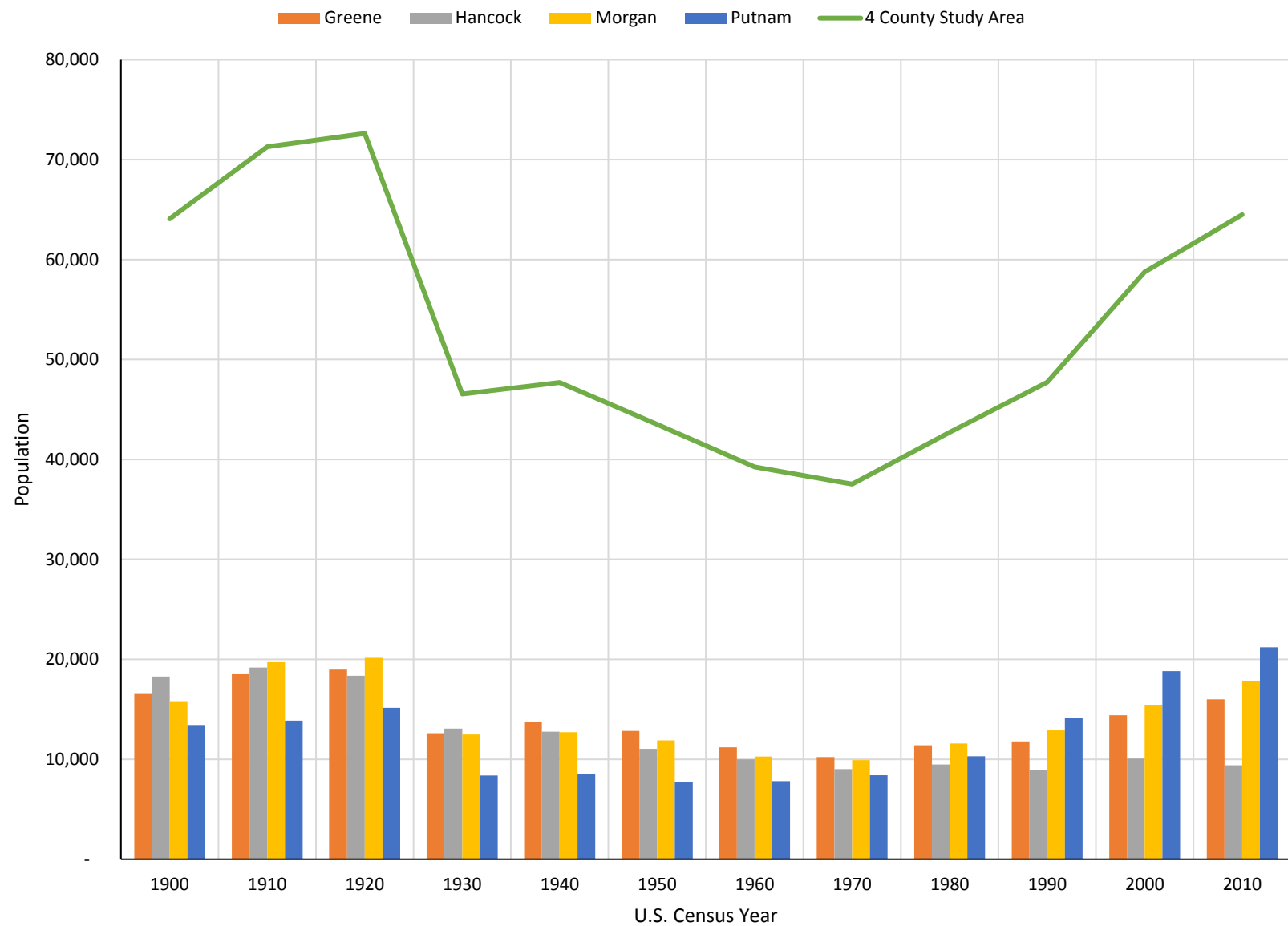
N:\GeorgiaPower\Wallace Dam\GIS\mxd\Recreation\Fig22 RecreationAccessFishing.mxd



Source: Georgia Power Land Department, 2016

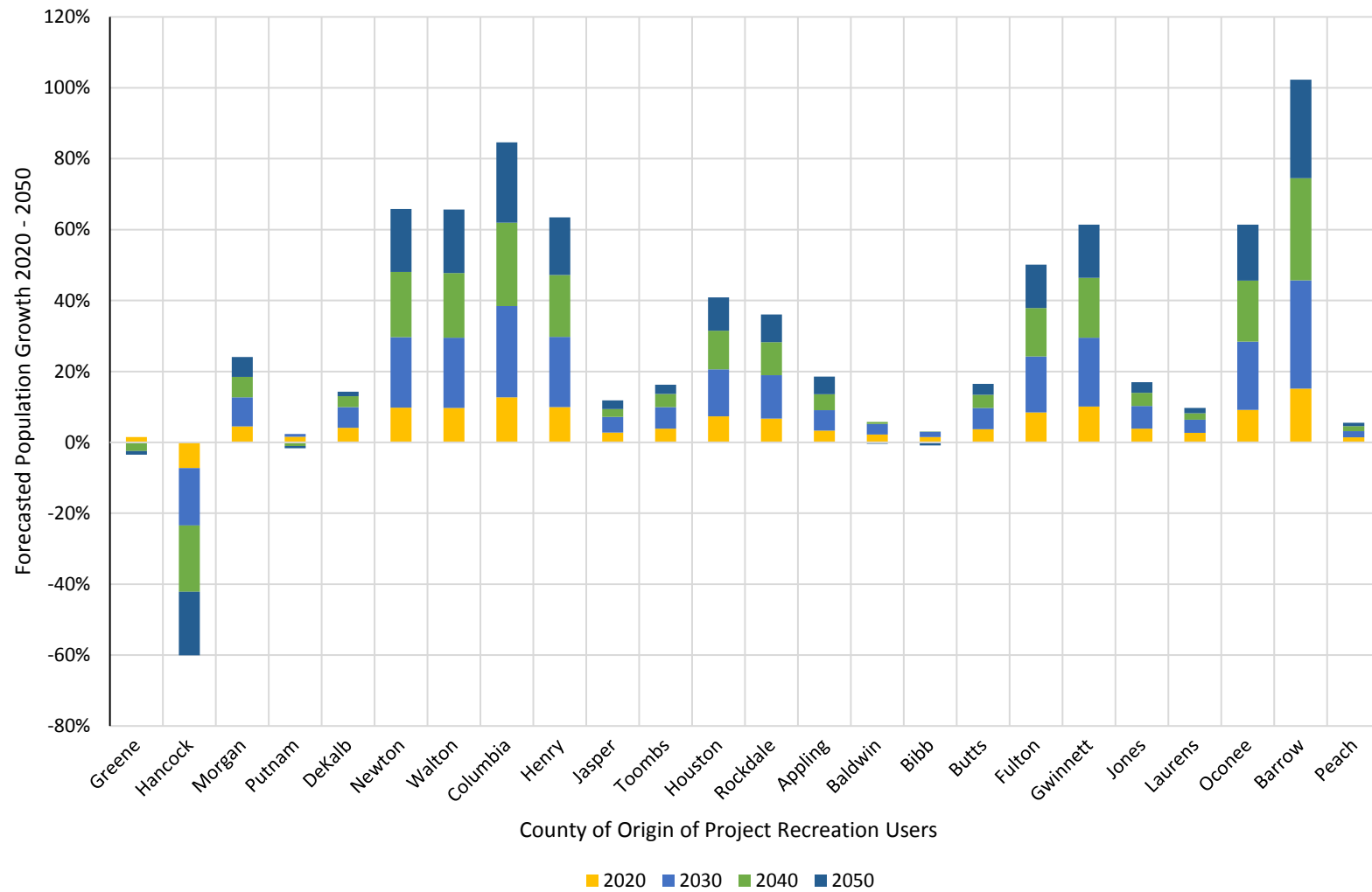
**Figure 23**  
**Georgia Power Attendance Records for 2014 and 2015 (Lake Oconee and Lake Sinclair)**  
 Wallace Dam Project (FERC No. 2413)





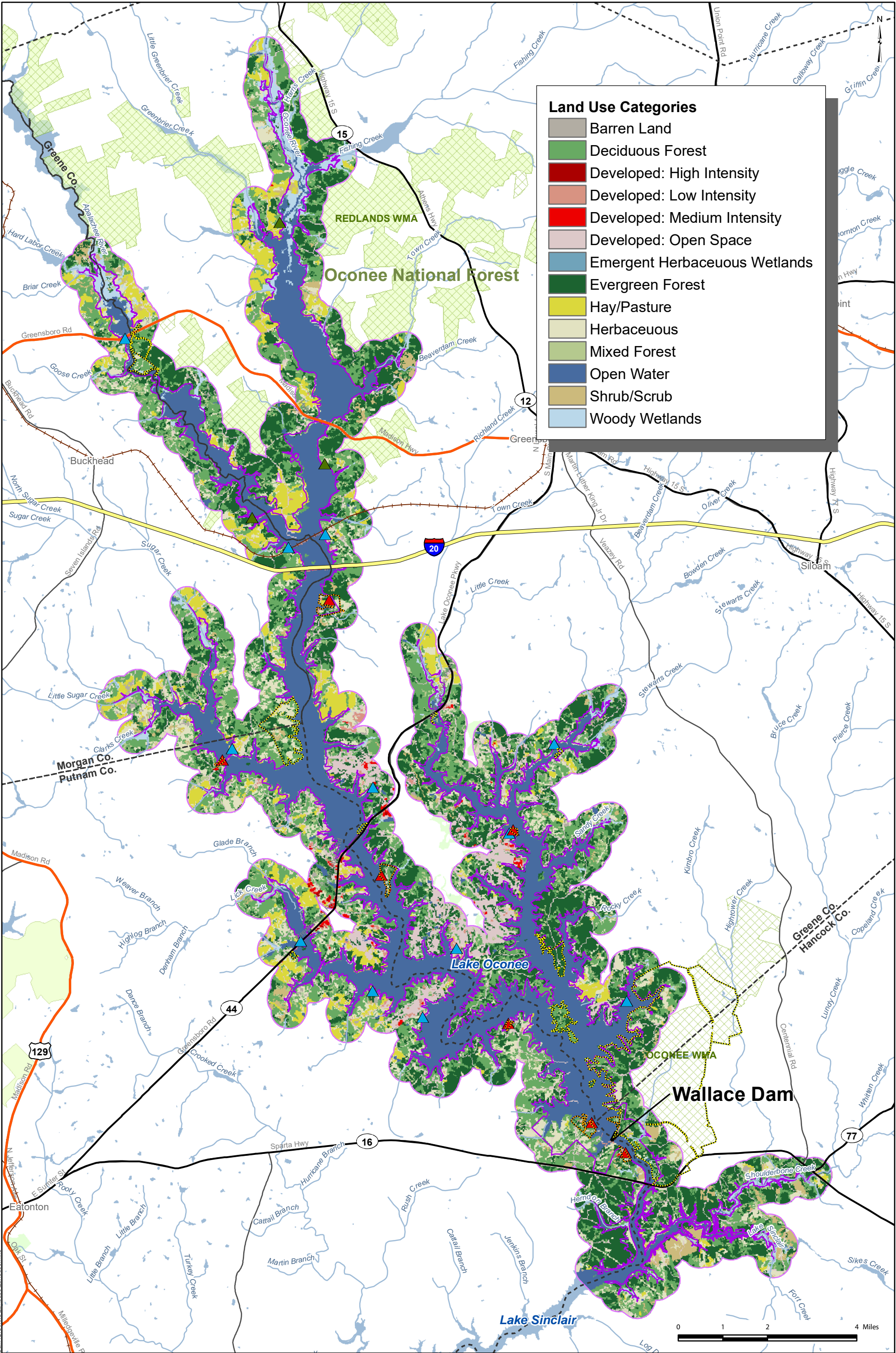
Source: GOPB, 2010

**Figure 24**  
**Historical Population Trends for Greene, Hancock, Morgan and Putnam Counties by Census Year**  
 Wallace Dam Project (FERC No. 2413)



Source: Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, Georgia  
 Residential Population Projections by County: 2015-2050, 2015  
 Series: Atlanta GA

**Figure 25**  
**Forecasted Population Growth by County 2020 - 2050**  
 Wallace Dam Project (FERC No. 2413)



**Figure 26**  
**Project Land Use Area**  
Wallace Dam Project  
(FERC No. 2413)

# APPENDIX A

## Recreation Survey Forms

# Georgia Power Company Wallace Dam Project Recreation Use Survey

Georgia Power Company is conducting this survey to learn about recreational use at Lake Oconee, user satisfaction with existing recreation facilities, and whether facility improvements may be needed. Please take a few minutes to answer some questions about your visit today. Thank you for your participation.

<b>Location:</b>			<b>Date:</b>		<b>Time:</b>
<b>Weather:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Clear	<input type="checkbox"/> Partly Cloudy	<input type="checkbox"/> Cloudy	<input type="checkbox"/> Rainy	<b>Temperature:</b>
<b>Investigator:</b>					

<b>1. What is your county and state of residence?</b>		County:		State:	
<b>2. How many people (including you) are in your group today?</b> _____ people					
<b>3. What is your age? (check one)</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> 18-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 25-34	<input type="checkbox"/> 35-44	<input type="checkbox"/> 45-54
<input type="checkbox"/> 55+					
<b>4. If you came with others, what are their age groups? (check all that apply)</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Children (infants-12)		<input type="checkbox"/> Youth (13-17)		<input type="checkbox"/> Adults (18-55)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Adults (over 55)					
<b>5. How many hours will you have spent here today?</b> _____ hours					
<b>6. How many times (including today) have you visited Lake Oconee or its parks in the last 30 days?</b> _____ times					
<b>7. How many times do you visit Lake Oconee annually?</b> _____ times					
<b>8. Do you use the reservoir at night?</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<b>If "yes", how many times per year?</b> _____ times	
<b>9. Are the parks at this reservoir your primary destination for outdoor recreation activities?</b>				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>10. What other parks and lakes in the area do you frequent for recreation? (list below)</b>					

<b>11. What is the primary reason for your visit today? (check all that apply)</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Boat fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Pontoon boating	<input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing/kayaking	<input type="checkbox"/> Hiking/walking	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Sail boating	<input type="checkbox"/> Sailboarding	<input type="checkbox"/> Shoreline relaxation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tournament fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Water skiing	<input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking/playing	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (list below):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pleasure boating	<input type="checkbox"/> Jet skiing	<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming/wading		
<b>12. If you came to fish today, what were you fishing for? (check all that apply)</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Largemouth bass	<input type="checkbox"/> Striped bass	<input type="checkbox"/> Channel catfish	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (list below):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Crappie	<input type="checkbox"/> Hybrid bass	<input type="checkbox"/> Blue catfish		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunfish/bream	<input type="checkbox"/> White bass	<input type="checkbox"/> Flathead catfish		
<b>13. Please rate the quality of the existing facilities at this access area. (choose one description for each)</b>				
<b>Parking:</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
<b>Restrooms:</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
<b>Boat ramp:</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
<b>Cleanliness:</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
<b>Dock:</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
<b>Bank fishing access:</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor

<b>14. List any specific improvements you would like to see at this access area, and any other comments or suggestions.</b>

**Georgia Power Company  
Wallace Dam Project  
User Count Form**

Location:  
Investigator:

<b>Date:</b>							
<b>Time:</b>							
<b>Weather:</b>							
# of Vehicles with Trailers							
# of Vehicles without Trailers							
# of Boats Visible on Reservoir:							
Fishing Boats							
Pontoon Boats							
Power Boats							
Other (list)							
# of Bank Fishers Observed							
# of Parties Using or Waiting to Use Picnic Tables							
# of Parties Using or Waiting to Use Boat Lanes							
Other Activities Observed – (list activity and number of persons participating):							
# of Vehicles with County Tag from:							
Co., GA							
Co., GA							
Co., GA							
Co., GA							
Co., GA							
Co., GA							
Co., GA							
Co., GA							
Co., GA							
Co., GA							
Co., _____							
Co., _____							
Co., _____							
Comments (in particular, note any congestion observed):							

## APPENDIX B

### Summary of User Suggestions for Recreation Facility Improvements at Wallace Dam Project

Generalized Improvements	Improvement/Comments
<b>Armour Bridge</b>	
Additional or Improved Boat Dock	Larger Courtesy Dock
	Floating dock instead of a fixed dock
	Light needed at dock
	Bigger Dock to accommodate multiple boats
	Better dock
	Dock Needs Bumpers
	Need Men's & Women's Restroom
	boards need to be replaced on dock
	Fix the dock
	Bumpers on the dock
Additional or Improved Boat Ramp	Larger dock
	Fix the dock
Additional Trash Cans/Trash Pickup	Wider Boat Ramp
	Enjoys the Security and it is not crowded
Day Use Pass/Annual Pass	Cleanup Trash
	Bigger trash receptacles, Oconee Outfitters
Facility Maintenance	annual pass
Improved Lighting	have someone clean facility daily; really likes the facility
	Add light at Lawrence Shoals near boat ramp
	Improve ramp light
	Light in restroom, widen turns for trailers
Other	Light Needs to Stay on at Boat Ramp
	Restrooms @ Dennis Station, As an angler does not see where the day use fee is going
	Too much boat traffic
	Cormorants killing shad populations, come to duck hunt as well as fish
	Light in restroom, widen turns for trailers
	Lives next to boat ramp
	Build a restaurant, fishes at Armour Bridge because Granite Shoals is closed
	Fishes at Armour Bridge because Granite Shoals is closed
	Security is Good
	have someone clean facility daily; really likes the facility
	No tournaments



Long Shoals Boat Ramp	
Additional or Improved Bathrooms	Restrooms could be better; docks here and at old salem need improvement, maintenance at sugar creek; start cleaning earlier in the season. Prevent bank fishers from fishing off the docks
	Cleaner bathroom, repairs on dock (not kept up), closer dock if fishing alone or boat trouble or dock on both sides to tie up to when alone
	Sugar creek restrooms need cleaning
	Bathrooms Smell Bad!
	Bathrooms are porta potties. Evans A bass Club Part of Evans Bass Club
	Better restroom would be nice but current one is okay
	Will not use restroom
Additional or Improved Boat Dock	more parking, better dock (and floating dock)
	more parking, longer spaces, longer dock
	Cleaner bathroom, repairs on dock (not kept up), closer dock if fishing alone or boat trouble or dock on both sides to tie up to when alone
	Need designated area for bank fishing, need more parking spaces, improved docks and fishing pier, designated staging area, tournament launching out, tubing other times, bathrooms are a weakness
	More dock space Need cleats on Dock
	Need light at ramp, need hazard buoys around lake - submerged timber, hit tree, dock closer to boat ramp
	Docks need work and needs to be replaced with non-wood material
	Restrooms could be better; docks here and at old salem need improvement, maintenance at sugar creek; start cleaning earlier in the season. Prevent bank fishers from fishing off the docks
	Dock-cleats needed, bumper for boats

Long Shoals Boat Ramp	
Additional or Improved Boat Ramp	Need designated area for bank fishing, need more parking spaces, improved docks and fishing pier, designated staging area, tournament launching out, tubing other times, bathrooms are a weakness
	dock closer to the boat ramp
	More lighting, better restroom, restocking fish
	mega ramp with 4-6 slots
	Extend Boat Ramp Further User lives on Lake Oconee
Additional or Improved Parking	Not enough parking two weeks ago
	more parking, better dock (and floating dock)
	Bigger parking, weigh in area, light at boat ramp is on/off constantly, gate could open earlier, Sinclair Bass Busters Club
	Need to angle the parking spaces, keep people who don't work for GPC out, keep fisherman off dock Keep fishermen off the dock
	Need light at ramp, need hazard buoys around lake - submerged timber, hit tree, dock closer to boat ramp
	more parking, longer spaces, longer dock
Bank Fishing/Fishing Piers	Need designated area for bank fishing, need more parking spaces, improved docks and fishing pier, designated staging area, tournament launching out, tubing other times, bathrooms are a weakness
	more stable bank fishing
Day Use Pass/Annual Pass	Coffee Old Salem Campground, fish cleaning facility, lighting at Old Salem, lighting in parking lot at long shoals. Lifetime parking option
	More visible parking fee; this is first time at this lake; carry boat in (no motor; paddle and small prop) - no trailer
Extend Hours of Operation	Bigger parking, weigh in area, light at boat ramp is on/off constantly, gate could open earlier, Sinclair Bass Busters Club

Long Shoals Boat Ramp	
Facility Maintenance	Said fish don't bite if not generating or pumping. Grass needs cutting, want generation schedule, can you only get pass at the land office?
	Pick up downed limbs Spring - not use ramp for weigh in bass tournament. They block public ramp and refuse to move.
	Clean up area, pick up limbs. Restrict tournaments, put up tents. Block at the tournaments launch and take out
	Restrooms could be better; docks here and at old salem need improvement, maintenance at sugar creek; start cleaning earlier in the season. Prevent bank fishers from fishing off the docks
Improved Lighting	More lighting, better restroom, restocking fish
	light on dock, he is using ramp today for work to deliver a wave runner, says park is excellent
	Coffee Old Salem Campground, fish cleaning facility, lighting at Old Salem, lighting in parking lot at long shoals. Lifetime parking option
	Bigger parking, weigh in area, light at boat ramp is on/off constantly, gate could open earlier, Sinclair Bass Busters Club
Other	Pick up downed limbs Spring - not use ramp for weigh in bass tournament. They block public ramp and refuse to move.
	More places to stay (motels), cabins
	Business is servicing/repairing boats so use often. Likes fishing for crappie and bass
	Need designated area for bank fishing, need more parking spaces, improved docks and fishing pier, designated staging area, tournament launching out, tubing other times, bathrooms are a weakness
	Said fish don't bite if not generating or pumping. Grass needs cutting, want generation schedule, can you only get pass at the land office?
	Likes 2 lanes at boat ramp - easy and fast to put in! CMA venue for music
	convenient boat ramp

Long Shoals Boat Ramp	
Other	Can drive in close to bank on dirt road
	Happy with everything
	light on dock, he is using ramp today for work to deliver a wave runner, says park is excellent
	Restrooms could be better; docks here and at old salem need improvement, maintenance at sugar creek; start cleaning earlier in the season. Prevent bank fishers from fishing off the docks
	Too much double parking
	fishing off bottom right side of parking lot
	More visible parking fee; this is first time at this lake; carry boat in (no motor; paddle and small prop) - no trailer
	None, was just using ramp to move boat to different location from vacation home on Oconee
	On vacation did not want to complete full survey
	Ice machine, coke machine
	Ice machine
	Need light at ramp, need hazard buoys around lake - submerged timber, hit tree, dock closer to boat ramp
	Coffee Old Salem Campground, fish cleaning facility, lighting at Old Salem, lighting in parking lot at long shoals. Lifetime parking option
	Love this park.
	JJ Bailey - UGA Environmental Engineering Wants a Job
	User lives on Lake Oconee year round
	Everything is perfect here. Nice having a bathroom even though we never use it!
	Clean up area, pick up limbs. Restrict tournaments, put up tents. Block at the tournaments launch and take out
	None - facilities are great
	Need to angle the parking spaces, keep people who don't work for GPC out, keep fisherman off dock Keep fishermen off the dock
	Bigger parking, weigh in area, light at boat ramp is on/off constantly, gate could open earlier, Sinclair Bass Busters Club

Long Shoals Boat Ramp	
Prevent Fishing from Boat Launch Docks	Need to angle the parking spaces, keep people who don't work for GPC out, keep fisherman off dock Keep fishermen off the dock
	Restrooms could be better; docks here and at old salem need improvement, maintenance at sugar creek; start cleaning earlier in the season. Prevent bank fishers from fishing off the docks
	Trim back bank for fishing across at Long Shoals.
	Ladder sometimes down, too crowded when people fishing from boat dock, very pleased

Sugar Creek Boat Ramp	
Additional or Improved Bathrooms	Heated restroom, no stainless steel toilets
	Clean the Bathrooms People Fish off of the Dock when they are not allowed
	Keep bathrooms clean
	Clean bathroom more often
	Bathroom improvements
	Bathroom is bad, spray for redbugs Spray for redbugs
Additional or Improved Boat Dock	improve boat dock
	dock needs a bumper rail
	Bigger docks, enforce people fishing off boat loading docks
	More cleats on the dock, more maintenance to facilities More maintenance at the facilities
	Bumpers Need to Be Installed on Boat Dock Bathroom Cleanliness & Soap is Needed
	Bigger Boat Dock
Additional or Improved Boat Ramp	Paint white lines along the boat ramp to help guide when backing boat up
	Bigger boat ramp
	Shallow ramp, have to back truck down so far
	Private boat ramps. Folks using cast nets and blocking the dock early in the morning
	Lower the Lake to repair boat ramps

Sugar Creek Boat Ramp	
Additional or Improved Parking	More parking, picnic area, BBQ, shed
	Add More Parking Put Bumpers on Boat Dock I Live on Lake Oconee
	Add more parking
Additional or Improved Picnic Areas/Grills	More parking, picnic area, BBQ, shed
	Picnic/BBQ
	Add a picnic area/grilling area
Additional Trash Cans/Trash Pickup	Wants another dock for bank fishing, keep it clean, no trash, ticks are a problem
Bank Fishing/Fishing Piers	Enforce people fishing from the boat dock (build fishing specific pier)
	Wants another dock for bank fishing, keep it clean, no trash, ticks are a problem
Day Use Pass/Annual Pass	GPC annual pass wanted
	Annual pass to be more accessible for everyone (online sales)
	Price of day use pass is too expensive
Facility Maintenance	Wants another dock for bank fishing, keep it clean, no trash, ticks are a problem
	Bathroom is bad, spray for redbugs Spray for redbugs
	Clean bathroom more often
	More cleats on the dock, more maintenance to facilities More maintenance at the facilities
Improved Lighting	Add more lighting at Long Shoals
Other	More fish!
	Safety and cleanliness most important and sugar creek has both
	Lights @ Redlands
	"I'm Really Happy With This Place"
	"So Far So Good"
	Security Cameras Installed at Boat Ramp Parking Lot
Other	No tournament - does not come during that time @ Sugar Creek (uses Armour Bridge instead)
	Price of day use pass is too expensive

Sugar Creek Boat Ramp	
	Fee drop box always to full to fit in more envelopes
	More Fish Biting!
	I Live on the Lake Shoreline and am here constantly
	its pretty good!
	Wants another dock for bank fishing, keep it clean, no trash, ticks are a problem
	Appreciates that facility is here and available for use
Prevent Fishing from Boat Launch Docks	People are fishing off of dock and they are not supposed to
	Parking not adequate during fish tournaments
	Private boat ramps. Folks using cast nets and blocking the dock early in the morning
	Bigger docks, enforce people fishing off boat loading docks
	Enforce people fishing from the boat dock (build fishing specific pier)

Generalized Improvements	Improvement/Comments
<b>Lawrence Shoals Park</b>	
Additional or Improved Boat Dock	Smaller dock next to ramp, hard when alone and wife doesn't drive the boat or truck
Extend Hours of Operation	Open gate earlier in the morning, this is sinclair bass busters club
Other	Love it!
<b>Old Salem Park</b>	
Additional or Improved Boat Dock	Bigger Docks, not enough room when heavy traffic, bumpers on docks to help prevent scratching Add bumpers on the docks
	bigger service dock
	Bigger Dock
Additional or Improved Boat Ramp	More ramps, open earlier in the year
Bank Fishing/Fishing Piers	-Clean up vegetation to open bank up more for small rods and reels -Plant more trees for shade -Would like to see more bank fishing near the dam
	Docks for fishing to get out into deeper water
	more bank access
Extend Hours of Operation	stay open year round, like being able to exit late
Facility Maintenance	-Clean up vegetation to open bank up more for small rods and reels -Plant more trees for shade -Would like to see more bank fishing near the dam
Other	First visit Lake Oconee
	-Clean up vegetation to open bank up more for small rods and reels -Plant more trees for shade -Would like to see more bank fishing near the dam



Parks Ferry	
Additional or Improved Bathrooms	No Soap in Restroom
Other	More camping spots - full on holiday weekends
	Appreciate fence being down, area has improved in recent years
	need more fish
Tailrace Fishing Area	
Additional or Improved Bathrooms	Sinclair is better (more accessible), pier is too high (has to snake down to shore), more people here at night; add more lighting and restroom
Bank Fishing/Fishing Piers	Bank access limited and needs to be cleared a little bit. Too Step. Fishing pier is too high to fish from. User purposely chose bank over pier to fish from.
Improved Lighting	More lights closer to pier are needed.
	Sinclair is better (more accessible), pier is too high (has to snake down to shore), more people here at night; add more lighting and restroom
Other	Sinclair is better (more accessible), pier is too high (has to snake down to shore), more people here at night; add more lighting and restroom
	Good to have seating added, caught blue and channel catfish earlier in boat in tailrace
	Pier is too high and needs to be closer to water line. User purposely chooses bank over the pier to fish.

Dyar Pasture Recreation	
Bank Fishing/Fishing Piers	Trees in the way of bank fishing access
Other	We have liked everything about our stay here
Hancock County Boat Ramp, Hwy 16 (DNR Ramp)	
Additional or Improved Bathrooms	User has a house close by Lake Bathroom/Cleanliness but not a portapotty because already not that much
	Trash cans, restrooms, hard to put in during drawdown, need lights for night fishing like Long Shoals
	Needs restrooms and more lighting
	Restrooms and more parking; lighting at night
	light and bathroom
Additional or Improved Parking	Restrooms and more parking; lighting at night
Additional Trash Cans/Trash Pickup	Trash cans, restrooms, hard to put in during drawdown, need lights for night fishing like Long Shoals
Facility Maintenance	Need grass and weeds cut along bank.
Improved Lighting	Needs Security Lights
	Restrooms and more parking; lighting at night
	Trash cans, restrooms, hard to put in during drawdown, need lights for night fishing like Long Shoals
	Needs restrooms and more lighting
	light and bathroom
Other	Restrooms, Dennis station is nice; picnic tables
	User has a house close by Lake Bathroom/Cleanliness but not a portapotty because already not that much
	User's First Time Visit to Lake Oconee

Hwy 278 at Apalachee River	
Additional Trash Cans/Trash Pickup	Trash, pretty good otherwise
Bank Fishing/Fishing Piers	More bank fishing space in area
Hwy 278 at Oconee River	
Bank Fishing/Fishing Piers	Improved bank fishing access - hard to cast due to trees and branches
Other	Good parking improvements from last time
Hwy 44 at Jerry's Bait & Tackle	
Bank Fishing/Fishing Piers	More bank fishing spots
	Cut Bank Weeds for Better Access
Day Use Pass/Annual Pass	No Paid Parking at Georgia Power Sites for Bank Fishermen
Facility Maintenance	Cut Weeds More Often Along Bank
Other	No Paid Parking at Georgia Power Sites for Bank Fishermen
	Cut Bank Weeds for Better Access
Hwy 44 at Lake Oconee East Bank	
Additional or Improved Bathrooms	Restrooms, water fountain
Additional or Improved Picnic Areas/Grills	Picnic Table, benches
Additional Trash Cans/Trash Pickup	Add trash can, clean up trash
	Add trash cans
	Add a trash can
	Love this spot, needs a trash can
Bank Fishing/Fishing Piers	Fishing piers/jetties for bank fishermen
Blank	Add a trash can
Other	Restrooms, water fountain
	Only uses this access point for bank fishing. Would be nice for trash cans to be placed here
Redlands Recreation Area	
Other	Closer bait store
	Light at Redlands doesn't work, camping should be added

Swords Recreation Area	
Additional or Improved Bathrooms	More lighting along bank where lights hit water - stay out of way of boats
	upgrade toilet
Extend Hours of Operation	GA Power does a wonderful job with parks. Want parks open earlier and later in the year (camping)
Improved Lighting	More lighting along bank where lights hit water - stay out of way of boats
Other	GA Power does a wonderful job with parks. Want parks open earlier and later in the year (camping)

## APPENDIX C

### User Group, Facility Provider, and Law Enforcement Interview Forms

## User Group Interview Form Wallace Dam Project (FERC No. 2413)


<b>Date:</b>	May 26, 2016
<b>Organization:</b>	Lake Oconee Bassmasters, Inc
<b>Interviewee:</b>	Kenneth W Barr
<b>Interviewer:</b>	Check if Self-administered: <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>

### ORGANIZATION CHARACTERISTICS

1. Are you a governmental, non-governmental, or private organization?

Private organization open to members of BASS, BASS NATION, and Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation.

2. What is the purpose or mission of your organization?

To stimulate public awareness pf bass fishing as a major sport. To offer our state conservation department our organized moral and political support and encouragement. To promote full adherence to all conservation codes and to demand adequate water standards. To detect and report any polluters and call public and political attention to his crime. To improve our skills as bass anglers through a fellowship of friendly exchange of expert bass-catching techniques and ideas, and to promote and encourage youth fishing, and a love for this great recreation. To function as a dynamic and effective link with other chapters 

3. How many persons participate in the local chapter of your organization?

12

4. How far do your members travel to use Lake Oconee?

Some travel about 50 miles but most about 15 miles

### USE OF LAKE OCONEE

5. Describe your group's use of Lake Oconee.

We fish about 4 of our monthly club bass tournaments on the lake.

6. What are the typical size(s) of your parties using Lake Oconee?

10 members on the average.

7. How frequently do you use Lake Oconee in a typical year?

4 times a year

8. When do you use Lake Oconee (seasons/days/times)?

We fish year round and our tournament on Saturdays from safe light until 3:00pm.

9. What areas of Lake Oconee do you use most frequently (refer to map designations)?

- ☒ Upper Reservoir (UR) – upstream of I-20
- ☒ Middle Reservoir (MR) – main stem between I-20 and Georgia Highway 44
- ☒ Lower Reservoir (LR) – main stem between Georgia Highway 44 and Wallace Dam
- ☒ Richland Creek (RC) – east side of the Lake

10. Where do you access Lake Oconee (refer to map)?

We access the lake from the ramps in the MR, LR, and RC areas.

11. What attributes of Lake Oconee are important to your group's use, and why?

The lake is close to most of our members. The fishing is good and the boat ramps are in locations that are good for us.

12. What attributes of Lake Oconee, if any, discourage your group's use, and why?

We try to avoid fishing on Oconee from Memorial Day weekend until after Labor Day weekend. Boat traffic is too heavy during those times.

## **QUALITY OF EXISTING ACCESS TO LAKE OCONEE**

13. What is your perception of the adequacy of existing access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee?

The adequacy of the existing access and facilities are good and we are lucky to have them.

14. What additional access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your group's use of the Lake?

We wish there was one of the mega ramps on Lake Oconee that would have parking for 300 boats and vehicles, launch ramps for 6 boats at a time, nice restrooms and a nice weigh-in facility for the tournaments to use. We also need some of the handicapped accessible facilities boat boarding and unloading ramps like at some ramps on West Point Lake.

## **USE OF DOWNSTREAM WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA**

15. Describe your group's use, if any, of the Wallace Dam tailrace area. The tailrace area is defined as the upstream end of Lake Sinclair extending from Wallace Dam downstream about 1.3 river miles to the Georgia Highway 16 bridge (refer to map designation TR).

N/A

16. What are the typical size(s) of your parties using the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

N/A

17. How frequently do you use the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

N/A

18. When do you use the Wallace Dam tailrace area (seasons/days/times)?

N/A

19. Where do you access the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

N/A



20. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area are important to your group's use, and why?

N/A

21. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area, if any, discourage your group's use, and why?

N/A

### **QUALITY OF EXISTING ACCESS TO WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA**

22. What is your perception of the adequacy of existing access and/or facilities in the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

N/A

23. What additional access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your group's use of the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

N/A

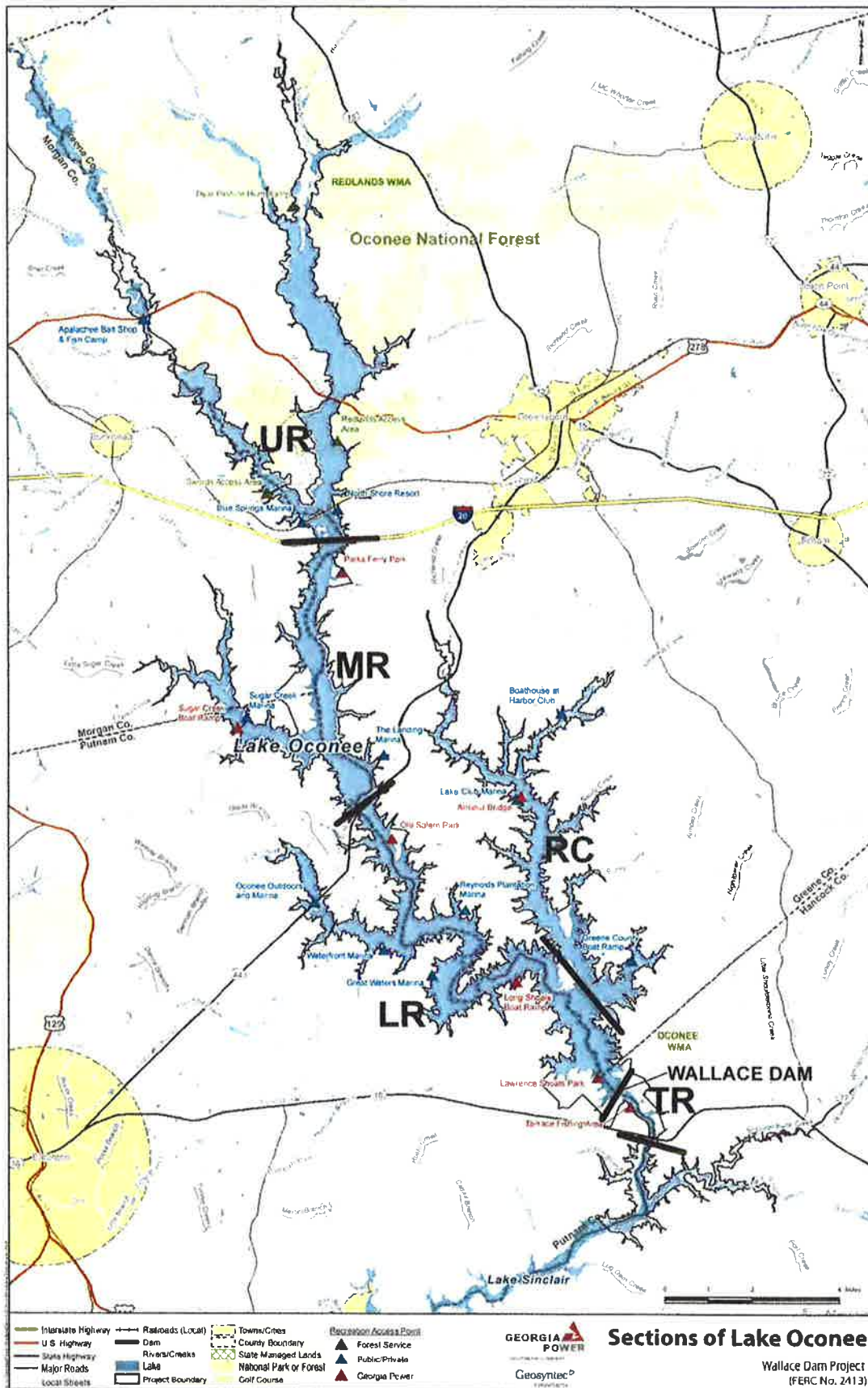
### **GENERAL**

24. What reservoirs or river segments in the Oconee River basin, other than Lake Oconee, does your group use most frequently?

Lake Sinclair

25. What other reservoirs or rivers in the area (within a 1-hour drive of Lake Oconee) does your group use for its usual activities?

Lake Jackson



**User Group Interview Form**  
**Wallace Dam Project (FERC No. 2413)**

Date: <i>June 15, 2016</i>	
Organization: <i>Rock Island Coves POA</i>	
Interviewee: <i>Ronald R. Wheeler</i>	
Interviewer:	Check if Self-administered: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**ORGANIZATION CHARACTERISTICS**

1. Are you a governmental, non-governmental, or private organization?

*Private*

2. What is the purpose or mission of your organization?

*PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION*

3. How many persons participate in the local chapter of your organization?

*150*

4. How far do your members travel to use Lake Oconee?

*Local + 300 miles*

**USE OF LAKE OCONEE**

5. Describe your group's use of Lake Oconee.

*RECREATION + RESIDENTIAL*

6. What are the typical size(s) of your parties using Lake Oconee?

family

7. How frequently do you use Lake Oconee in a typical year?

DAILY ON WEEKENDS) VACATION

8. When do you use Lake Oconee (seasons/days/times)?

Annually

9. What areas of Lake Oconee do you use most frequently (refer to map designations)?

- ☐ Upper Reservoir (UR) – upstream of I-20
- ☐ Middle Reservoir (MR) – main stem between I-20 and Georgia Highway 44
- ☒ Lower Reservoir (LR) – main stem between Georgia Highway 44 and Wallace Dam
- ☐ Richland Creek (RC) – east side of the Lake

10. Where do you access Lake Oconee (refer to map)?

LR

11. What attributes of Lake Oconee are important to your group's use, and why?

Water level & clean property

12. What attributes of Lake Oconee, if any, discourage your group's use, and why?

None

### **QUALITY OF EXISTING ACCESS TO LAKE OCONEE**

13. What is your perception of the adequacy of existing access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee?

Good

14. What additional access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your group's use of the Lake?

NA

### **USE OF DOWNSTREAM WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA**

15. Describe your group's use, if any, of the Wallace Dam tailrace area. The tailrace area is defined as the upstream end of Lake Sinclair extending from Wallace Dam downstream about 1.3 river miles to the Georgia Highway 16 bridge (refer to map designation TR).

NA

16. What are the typical size(s) of your parties using the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

17. How frequently do you use the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

18. When do you use the Wallace Dam tailrace area (seasons/days/times)?

19. Where do you access the Wallace Dam tailrace area?



20. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area are important to your group's use, and why?

21. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area, if any, discourage your group's use, and why?

N/A

**QUALITY OF EXISTING ACCESS TO WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA**

22. What is your perception of the adequacy of existing access and/or facilities in the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

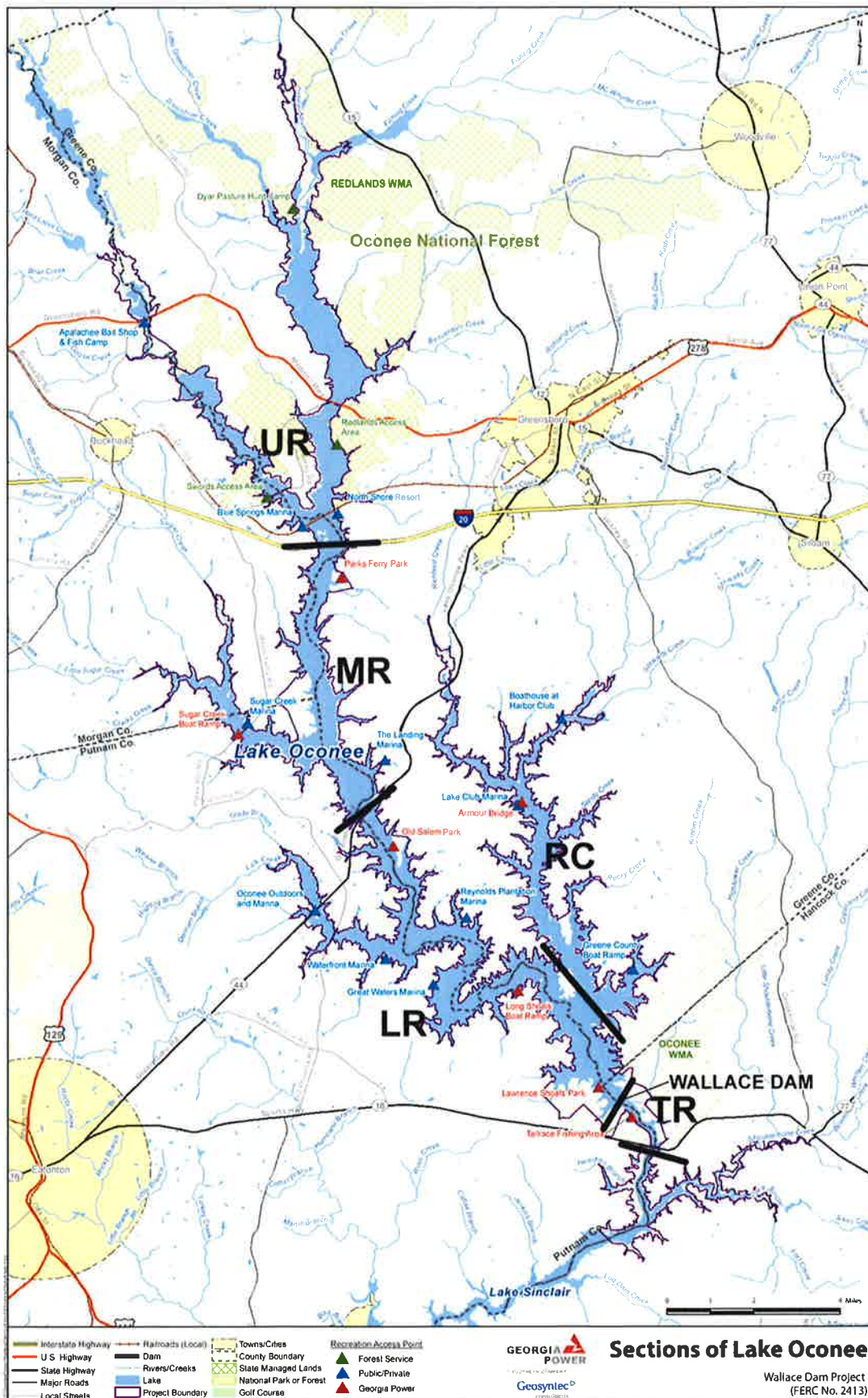
23. What additional access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your group's use of the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

N/A

**GENERAL**

24. What reservoirs or river segments in the Oconee River basin, other than Lake Oconee, does your group use most frequently?

25. What other reservoirs or rivers in the area (within a 1-hour drive of Lake Oconee) does your group use for its usual activities?



**User Group Interview Form  
Wallace Dam Project (FERC No. 2413)**

Date: <u>5/30/2016</u>	
Organization: <u>SALEM PLANTATION HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION</u>	
Interviewee: <u>JOHN FLOCK, PRESIDENT OF HOME OWNERS ASSN</u>	
Interviewer:	Check if Self-administered: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**ORGANIZATION CHARACTERISTICS**

1. Are you a governmental, non-governmental, or private organization?

PRIVATE ORGANIZATION.

2. What is the purpose or mission of your organization?

THE PURPOSE IS FOR GOVERNING THE IMPROVEMENTS, USE, ENJOYMENT, OCCUPANCY AND OWNERSHIP OF THE PROPERTY WHICH CONSTITUTES SALEM PLANTATION HOMEOWNERS.

3. How many persons participate in the local chapter of your organization?

THE BOARD CONSISTS OF 5 MEMBERS. HOME OWNERS AMOUNT TO 55 PROPERTIES.

4. How far do your members travel to use Lake Oconee?

ALL MEMBERS HAVE LAKE ACCESS LOTS

**USE OF LAKE OCONEE**

5. Describe your group's use of Lake Oconee.

THE MEMBERS USE THE LAKE FOR FISHING, BOATING AND OTHER WATER ACTIVITIES.

6. What are the typical size(s) of your parties using Lake Oconee?

TYPICAL SIZE IS FAMILY.

7. How frequently do you use Lake Oconee in a typical year?

THE HOME OWNERS USE THE LAKE YEAR ROUND.

8. When do you use Lake Oconee (seasons/days/times)?

ALL YEAR ROUND.

9. What areas of Lake Oconee do you use most frequently (refer to map designations)?

- ☐ Upper Reservoir (UR) – upstream of I-20
- ☐ Middle Reservoir (MR) – main stem between I-20 and Georgia Highway 44
- ☒ Lower Reservoir (LR) – main stem between Georgia Highway 44 and Wallace Dam
- ☐ Richland Creek (RC) – east side of the Lake

10. Where do you access Lake Oconee (refer to map)?

WE ACCESS THE LAKE FROM THREE (3) COVES ADJACENT  
(JUST SOUTH OF HIGHWAY 44 BRIDGE).

11. What attributes of Lake Oconee are important to your group's use, and why?

THE LAKE ALLOWS HOME OWNERS TO FISH, BOAT AND  
PARTICIPATE IN OTHER WATER ACTIVITIES.

12. What attributes of Lake Oconee, if any, discourage your group's use, and why?

THE COLOR (BROWN DUE TO RUN OFF) MAY DISCOURAGE  
SOME PEOPLE FROM SWIMMING.

### QUALITY OF EXISTING ACCESS TO LAKE OCONEE

13. What is your perception of the adequacy of existing access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee?

ACCESS IS FINE AND MARINAS OFFER GOOD  
OPPORTUNITIES TO GET GAS.

14. What additional access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your group's use of the Lake?

NONE

### USE OF DOWNSTREAM WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA

15. Describe your group's use, if any, of the Wallace Dam tailrace area. The tailrace area is defined as the upstream end of Lake Sinclair extending from Wallace Dam downstream about 1.3 river miles to the Georgia Highway 16 bridge (refer to map designation TR).

16. What are the typical size(s) of your parties using the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

17. How frequently do you use the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

18. When do you use the Wallace Dam tailrace area (seasons/days/times)?

19. Where do you access the Wallace Dam tailrace area?



20. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area are important to your group's use, and why?

21. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area, if any, discourage your group's use, and why?

### QUALITY OF EXISTING ACCESS TO WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA

22. What is your perception of the adequacy of existing access and/or facilities in the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

23. What additional access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your group's use of the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

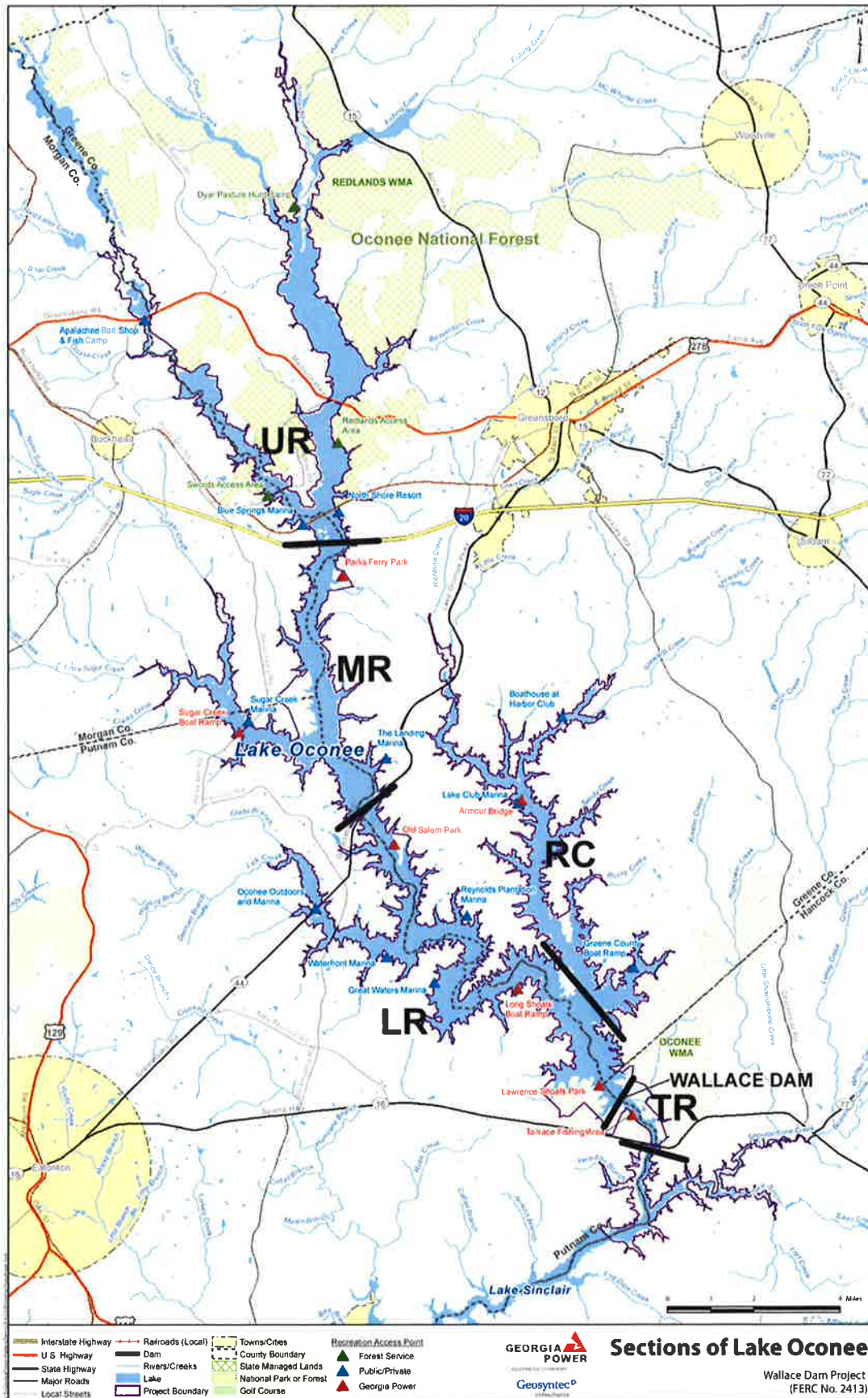
### GENERAL

24. What reservoirs or river segments in the Oconee River basin, other than Lake Oconee, does your group use most frequently?

*NONE*

25. What other reservoirs or rivers in the area (within a 1-hour drive of Lake Oconee) does your group use for its usual activities?

*LAKE SINCLAIR*



**User Group Interview Form**  
**Wallace Dam Project (FERC No. 2413)**

Date: June 1, 2016	
Organization: Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce	
Interviewee: Raddie Anne Blackwell, President	
Interviewer:	Check if Self-administered: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**ORGANIZATION CHARACTERISTICS**

1. Are you a governmental, non-governmental, or private organization? 501(c)(6) non-profit

2. What is the purpose or mission of your organization?

Promoting economic prosperity and tourism for our community

3. How many persons participate in the local chapter of your organization?

approximately 375 business members

4. How far do your members travel to use Lake Oconee?

We promote Lakes Oconee + Sinclair to tourist, relocating retirees, business relocations. We literally promote all over the world.

**USE OF LAKE OCONEE**

5. Describe your group's use of Lake Oconee.

We promote the lake as an economic engine for our community as well as the entire middle Georgia area.

6. What are the typical size(s) of your parties using Lake Oconee? It could be individual families to group tours.
7. How frequently do you use Lake Oconee in a typical year? Promote to be used daily.
8. When do you use Lake Oconee (seasons/days/times)? Promote to be used 365 days per year. Recently had "Lakefront Bargain Homes," HGTV series filmed which will be shown nationally on TV.
9. What areas of Lake Oconee do you use most frequently (refer to map designations)?
- ☐ Upper Reservoir (UR) – upstream of I-20
  - ☒ Middle Reservoir (MR) – main stem between I-20 and Georgia Highway 44
  - ☒ Lower Reservoir (LR) – main stem between Georgia Highway 44 and Wallace Dam
  - ☐ Richland Creek (RC) – east side of the Lake
10. Where do you access Lake Oconee (refer to map)?  
MR, LR + TR
11. What attributes of Lake Oconee are important to your group's use, and why?  
Keeping it as a natural resource, constant water levels, hydro generating, wonderful G.P. Parks,
12. What attributes of Lake Oconee, if any, discourage your group's use, and why?  
general public would like more public access with boat ramps.

### QUALITY OF EXISTING ACCESS TO LAKE OCONEE

13. What is your perception of the adequacy of existing access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee?

The three parks are wonderful. We have received inquiries as to why they are not open year round

14. What additional access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your group's use of the Lake?

day tourist and visitors would like more public access points, easier boat launches

### USE OF DOWNSTREAM WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA

15. Describe your group's use, if any, of the Wallace Dam tailrace area. The tailrace area is defined as the upstream end of Lake Sinclair extending from Wallace Dam downstream about 1.3 river miles to the Georgia Highway 16 bridge (refer to map designation TR).

Oconee Springs Park is a huge draw to tourist, campers, & boaters in this area. Our county government hopes to expand the park in size and cabins that would be available.

16. What are the typical size(s) of your parties using the Wallace Dam tailrace area? large & small.

would love to be able to someday host fishing tournaments from that site.

17. How frequently do you use the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

18. When do you use the Wallace Dam tailrace area (seasons/days/times)? We promote 365 days per year

19. Where do you access the Wallace Dam tailrace area?



20. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area are important to your group's use, and why?

21. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area, if any, discourage your group's use, and why?

lack of boat launch sites, and it could be there are some we are not aware of.

#### QUALITY OF EXISTING ACCESS TO WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA

22. What is your perception of the adequacy of existing access and/or facilities in the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

Not enough

23. What additional access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your group's use of the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

It would allow for additional development & use in that part of the county

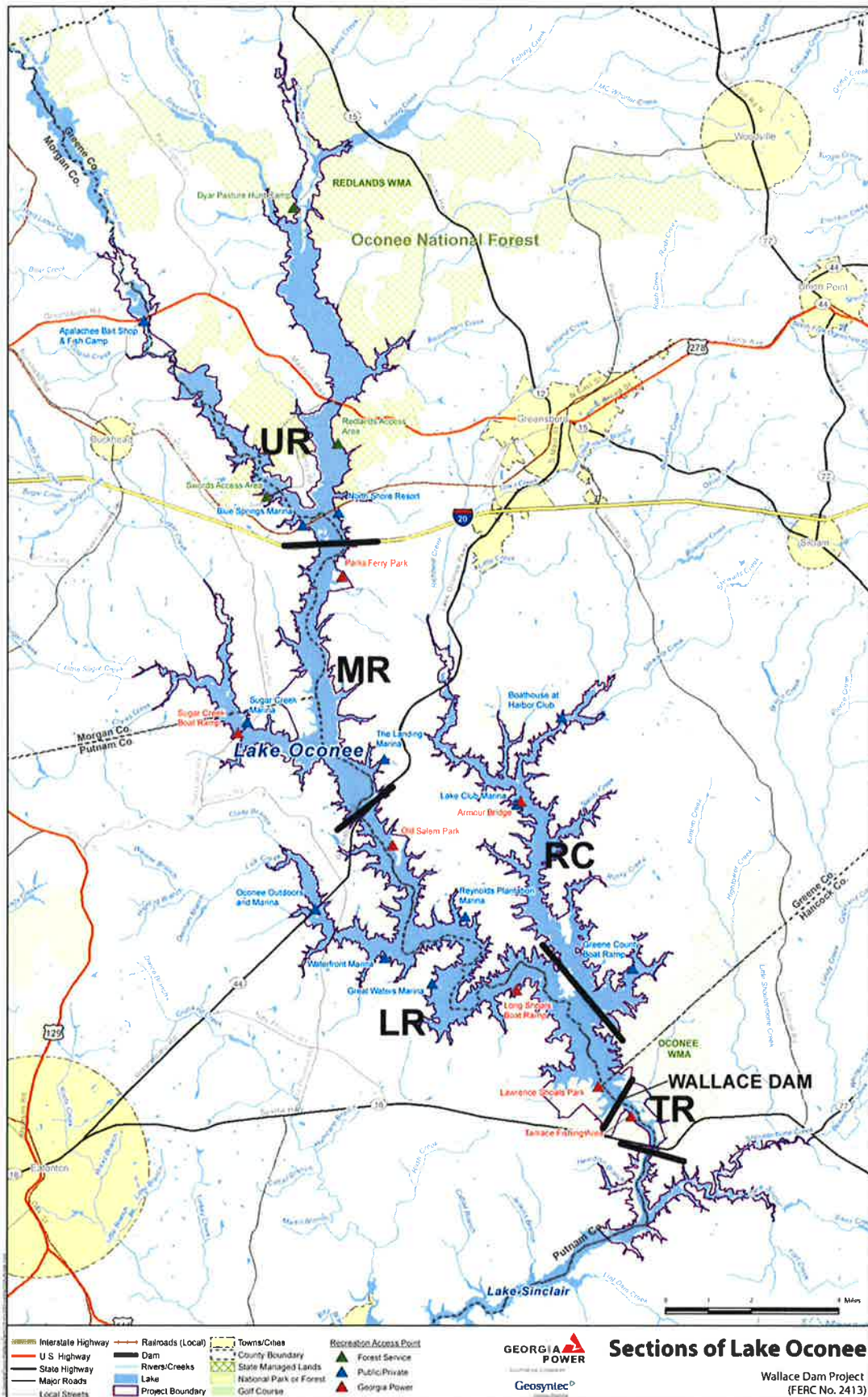
#### GENERAL

24. What reservoirs or river segments in the Oconee River basin, other than Lake Oconee, does your group use most frequently?

Lake Sinclair

25. What other reservoirs or rivers in the area (within a 1-hour drive of Lake Oconee) does your group use for its usual activities?

Lake Sinclair



**User Group Interview Form  
Wallace Dam Project (FERC No. 2413)**

Date: <i>MAY 26, 2016</i>	
Organization: <i>LAKE OCONEE ANGLERS</i>	
Interviewee:	
Interviewer:	Check if Self-administered: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**ORGANIZATION CHARACTERISTICS**

1. Are you a governmental, non-governmental, or private organization?

*PRIVATE*

2. What is the purpose or mission of your organization?

*LARGE MOUTH BASS FISHING CLUB*

3. How many persons participate in the local chapter of your organization?

*APPROX 60*

4. How far do your members travel to use Lake Oconee?

*THEY LIVE IN REYNOLDS - 1 TO 3 MILES.*

**USE OF LAKE OCONEE**

5. Describe your group's use of Lake Oconee.

*BASS FISHING TOURNAMENTS*

6. What are the typical size(s) of your parties using Lake Oconee?

12 BOATS, 2 PEOPLE PER BOAT

7. How frequently do you use Lake Oconee in a typical year?

10 TOURNAMENTS PER YEAR

8. When do you use Lake Oconee (seasons/days/times)?

TUESDAYS - VARIES MONTH TO MONTH - START ~ SUNRISE  
TYPICALLY ONE TOURNAMENT PER MONTH - MARCH  
THROUGH NOVEMBER

9. What areas of Lake Oconee do you use most frequently (refer to map designations)?

- ☐ Upper Reservoir (UR) – upstream of I-20
- ☒ Middle Reservoir (MR) – main stem between I-20 and Georgia Highway 44
- ☒ Lower Reservoir (LR) – main stem between Georgia Highway 44 and Wallace Dam
- ☒ Richland Creek (RC) – east side of the Lake

10. Where do you access Lake Oconee (refer to map)?

LAKE CLUB OR PLANTATION MARINA

11. What attributes of Lake Oconee are important to your group's use, and why?

SAFE LAKE, HAZARDS WELL MARKED  
HEALTHY FISH POPULATION.

12. What attributes of Lake Oconee, if any, discourage your group's use, and why?

PUMP BACK OPERATION ELIMINATES  
THERMOCLINE IN SUMMER. THIS HAS A  
NEGATIVE EFFECT ON FISHING.

### QUALITY OF EXISTING ACCESS TO LAKE OCONEE

13. What is your perception of the adequacy of existing access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee?

*FROM OUR CLUBS PERSPECTIVE, FACILITIES ARE GOOD.*

14. What additional access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your group's use of the Lake?

### USE OF DOWNSTREAM WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA

15. Describe your group's use, if any, of the Wallace Dam tailrace area. The tailrace area is defined as the upstream end of Lake Sinclair extending from Wallace Dam downstream about 1.3 river miles to the Georgia Highway 16 bridge (refer to map designation TR).

*NO USE*

16. What are the typical size(s) of your parties using the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

17. How frequently do you use the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

18. When do you use the Wallace Dam tailrace area (seasons/days/times)?

19. Where do you access the Wallace Dam tailrace area?



20. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area are important to your group's use, and why?

21. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area, if any, discourage your group's use, and why?

### **QUALITY OF EXISTING ACCESS TO WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA**

22. What is your perception of the adequacy of existing access and/or facilities in the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

23. What additional access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your group's use of the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

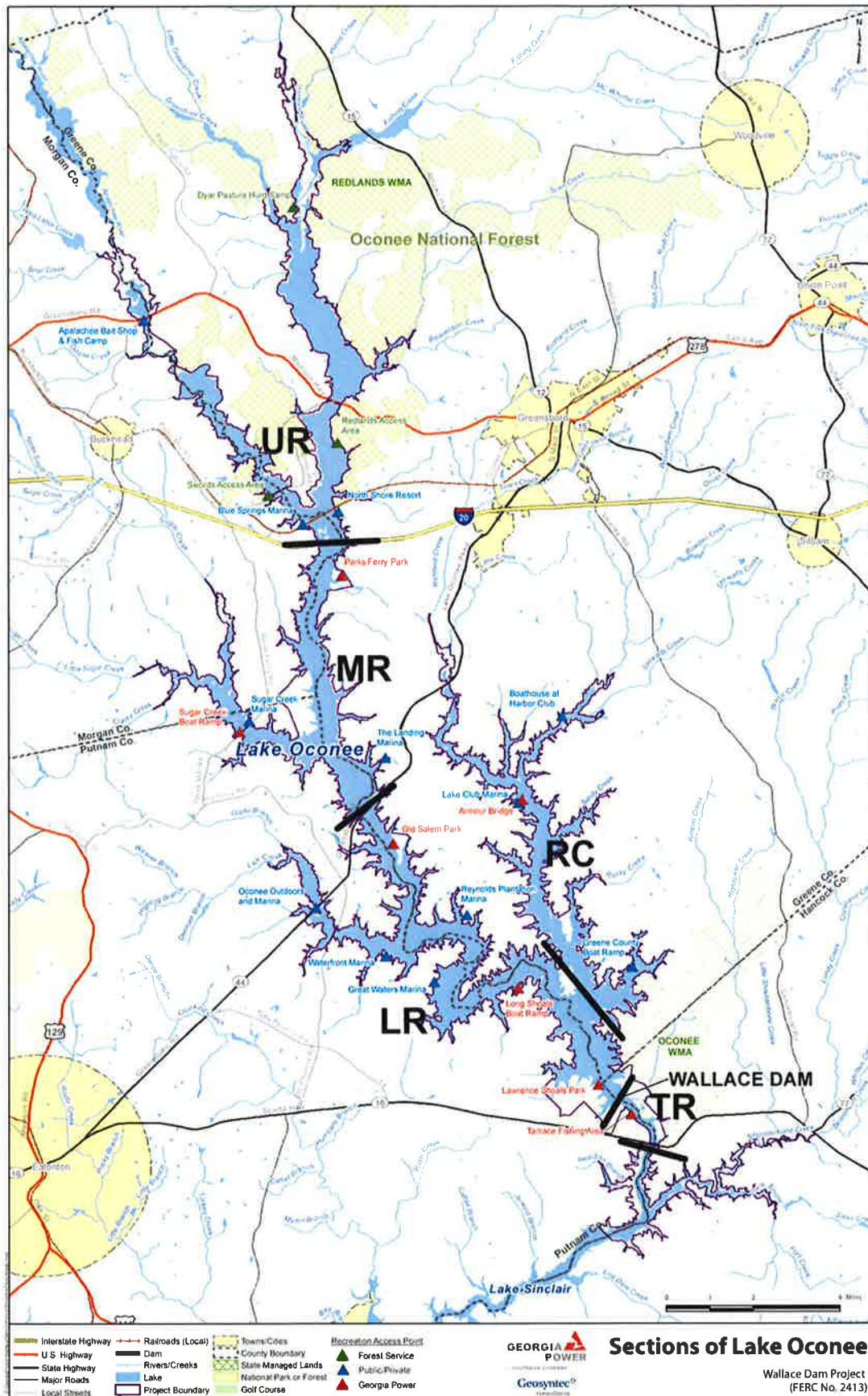
### **GENERAL**

24. What reservoirs or river segments in the Oconee River basin, other than Lake Oconee, does your group use most frequently?

*NONE*

25. What other reservoirs or rivers in the area (within a 1-hour drive of Lake Oconee) does your group use for its usual activities?

*REYNOLDS PONDS*



# **User Group Interview Form** **Wallace Dam Project (FERC No. 2413)**

Date: May 26, 2016	
Organization: <del>the</del> Palmetto Moon Hotel Associates, LLC the lodge on Lake Oconee	
Interviewee: Sam Agee	
Interviewer:	Check if Self-administered: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## **ORGANIZATION CHARACTERISTICS**

1. Are you a governmental, non-governmental, or private organization?

Private

2. What is the purpose or mission of your organization?

We operate a hotel on Lake Oconee

3. How many persons participate in the local chapter of your organization?

There are 3 partners but we have about 15,000 hotel guests per year

4. How far do your members travel to use Lake Oconee?

mostly from Georgia

## **USE OF LAKE OCONEE**

5. Describe your group's use of Lake Oconee.

It's a hotel that provides lodging and has boat docks

6. What are the typical size(s) of your parties using Lake Oconee?

Varies

7. How frequently do you use Lake Oconee in a typical year?

We have guests daily

8. When do you use Lake Oconee (seasons/days/times)?

Busiest from April to Nov.

9. What areas of Lake Oconee do you use most frequently (refer to map designations)?

- ☐ Upper Reservoir (UR) – upstream of I-20
- ☒ Middle Reservoir (MR) – main stem between I-20 and Georgia Highway 44
- ☐ Lower Reservoir (LR) – main stem between Georgia Highway 44 and Wallace Dam
- ☐ Richland Creek (RC) – east side of the Lake

10. Where do you access Lake Oconee (refer to map)?

MR we have docks

11. What attributes of Lake Oconee are important to your group's use, and why?

Water sports, fishing, scenery

12. What attributes of Lake Oconee, if any, discourage your group's use, and why?

None

### QUALITY OF EXISTING ACCESS TO LAKE OCONEE

13. What is your perception of the adequacy of existing access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee?

Good

14. What additional access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your group's use of the Lake?

Tours

### USE OF DOWNSTREAM WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA

15. Describe your group's use, if any, of the Wallace Dam tailrace area. The tailrace area is defined as the upstream end of Lake Sinclair extending from Wallace Dam downstream about 1.3 river miles to the Georgia Highway 16 bridge (refer to map designation TR).

None to my knowledge

16. What are the typical size(s) of your parties using the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

N/A

17. How frequently do you use the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

N/A

18. When do you use the Wallace Dam tailrace area (seasons/days/times)?

N/A

19. Where do you access the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

N/A



20. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area are important to your group's use, and why?

N/A

21. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area, if any, discourage your group's use, and why?

N/A

#### **QUALITY OF EXISTING ACCESS TO WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA**

22. What is your perception of the adequacy of existing access and/or facilities in the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

N/A

23. What additional access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your group's use of the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

N/A

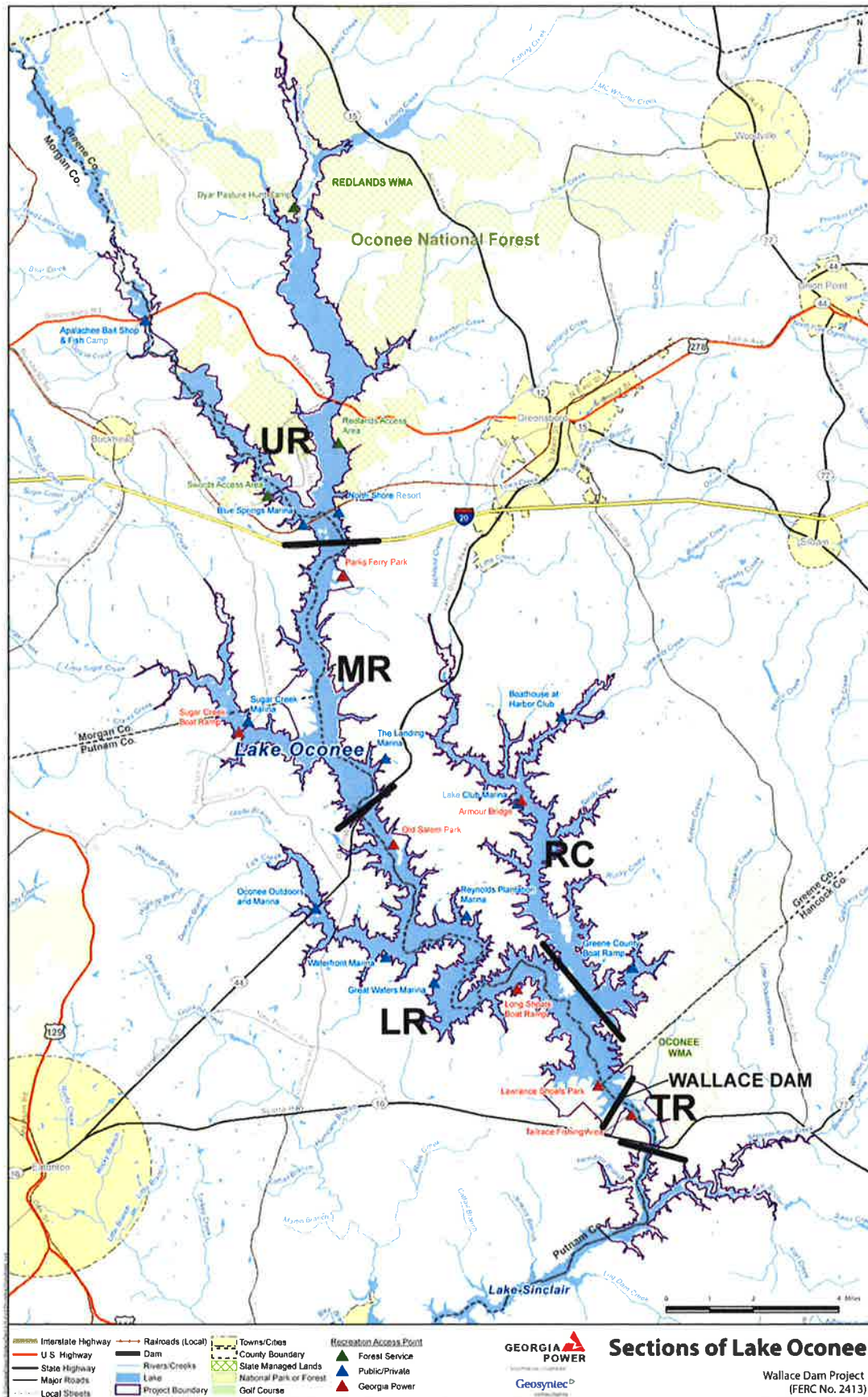
#### **GENERAL**

24. What reservoirs or river segments in the Oconee River basin, other than Lake Oconee, does your group use most frequently?

N/A

25. What other reservoirs or rivers in the area (within a 1-hour drive of Lake Oconee) does your group use for its usual activities?

N/A



**User Group Interview Form**  
**Wallace Dam Project (FERC No. 2413)**

Date: 5 29 16	
Organization: The Wharf at Harbor Club	
Interviewee: John Crouse, Board member	
Interviewer:	Check if Self-administered: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**ORGANIZATION CHARACTERISTICS**

1. Are you a governmental, non-governmental, or private organization?

Private Home Owners Assoc.

2. What is the purpose or mission of your organization?

Association management

3. How many persons participate in the local chapter of your organization?

30 town homes

4. How far do your members travel to use Lake Oconee?

Some live here, some travel - one lives in N.Y.

**USE OF LAKE OCONEE**

5. Describe your group's use of Lake Oconee.

Boating, fishing, swimming

6. What are the typical size(s) of your parties using Lake Oconee?

2-4

7. How frequently do you use Lake Oconee in a typical year?

8 year-round residents  
22 week-enders

8. When do you use Lake Oconee (seasons/days/times)?

Continuously

9. What areas of Lake Oconee do you use most frequently (refer to map designations)?

- ☐ Upper Reservoir (UR) – upstream of I-20
- ☐ Middle Reservoir (MR) – main stem between I-20 and Georgia Highway 44
- ☐ Lower Reservoir (LR) – main stem between Georgia Highway 44 and Wallace Dam
- ☒ Richland Creek (RC) – east side of the Lake

10. Where do you access Lake Oconee (refer to map)?

Private docks at Henbor Club  
and Bathhouse

11. What attributes of Lake Oconee are important to your group's use, and why?

Ability to boat, fish, swim

12. What attributes of Lake Oconee, if any, discourage your group's use, and why?

None

## QUALITY OF EXISTING ACCESS TO LAKE OCONEE

13. What is your perception of the adequacy of existing access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee?

Adequate

14. What additional access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your group's use of the Lake?

\* None needed for our use but would much  
appreciate it if we could have boat lifts  
at our docks

## USE OF DOWNSTREAM WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA

15. Describe your group's use, if any, of the Wallace Dam tailrace area. The tailrace area is defined as the upstream end of Lake Sinclair extending from Wallace Dam downstream about 1.3 river miles to the Georgia Highway 16 bridge (refer to map designation TR).

Occasional boating fishing

16. What are the typical size(s) of your parties using the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

2-4

17. How frequently do you use the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

not often

18. When do you use the Wallace Dam tailrace area (seasons/days/times)?

could be anytime

19. Where do you access the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

from our docks



20. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area are important to your group's use, and why?

—

21. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area, if any, discourage your group's use, and why?

—

### QUALITY OF EXISTING ACCESS TO WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA

22. What is your perception of the adequacy of existing access and/or facilities in the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

adequate

23. What additional access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your group's use of the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

none

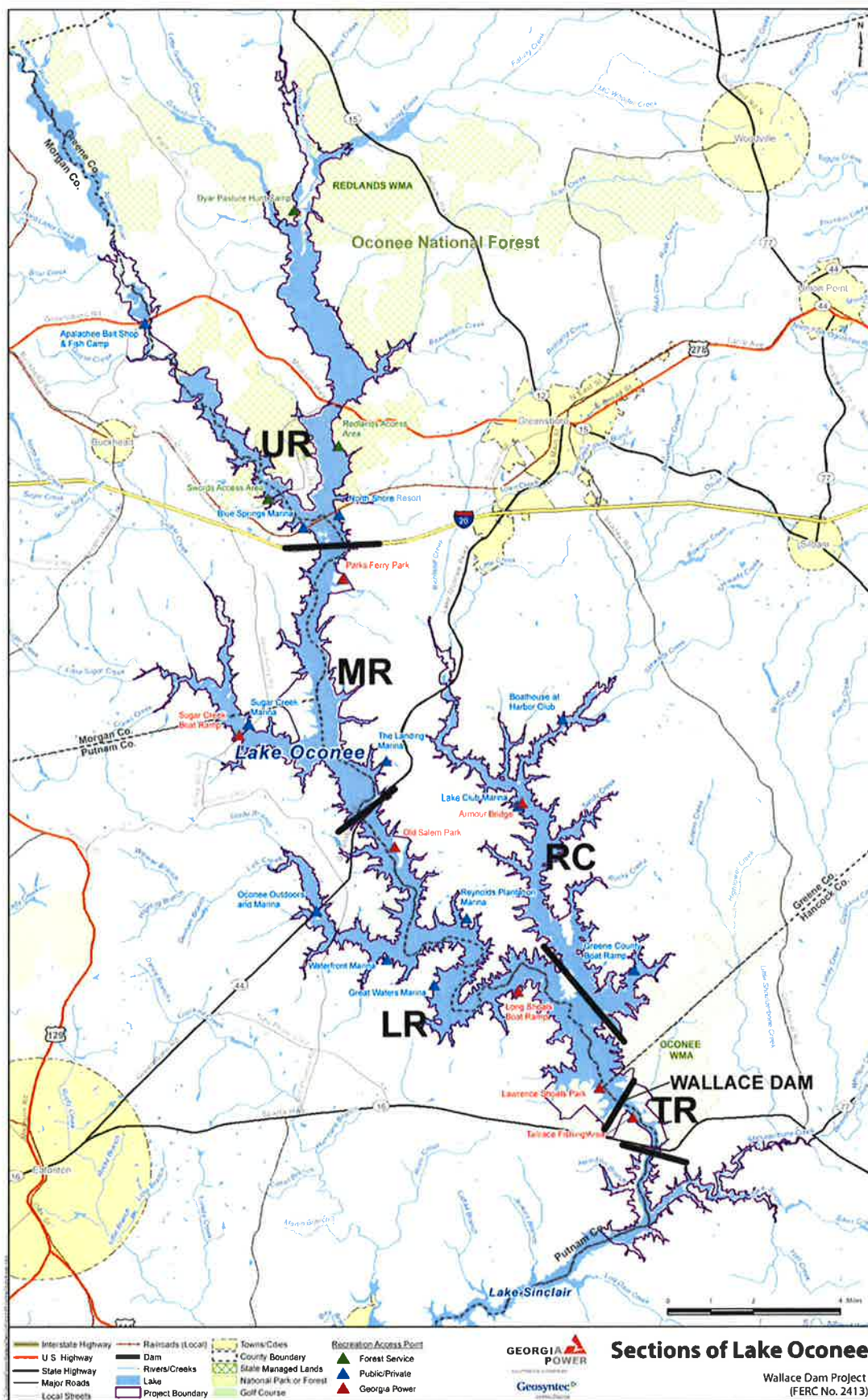
### GENERAL

24. What reservoirs or river segments in the Oconee River basin, other than Lake Oconee, does your group use most frequently?

—

25. What other reservoirs or rivers in the area (within a 1-hour drive of Lake Oconee) does your group use for its usual activities?

—



**User Group Interview Form  
Wallace Dam Project (FERC No. 2413)**

Date:	6/22/16
Organization:	Lake Oconee Bassmasters
Interviewee:	
Interviewer:	Check if Self-administered: <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>

**ORGANIZATION CHARACTERISTICS**

1. Are you a governmental, non-governmental, or private organization?

Non-governmental

2. What is the purpose or mission of your organization?

Tournament Bass Fishing Club

3. How many persons participate in the local chapter of your organization?

12

4. How far do your members travel to use Lake Oconee?

30 to 40 miles

**USE OF LAKE OCONEE**

5. Describe your group's use of Lake Oconee.

Bass fishing tournaments

6. What are the typical size(s) of your parties using Lake Oconee?

10

7. How frequently do you use Lake Oconee in a typical year?

6 times per year

8. When do you use Lake Oconee (seasons/days/times)?

Winter, Spring, Saturday daylight to 3 pm.

9. What areas of Lake Oconee do you use most frequently (refer to map designations)?

- ☐ Upper Reservoir (UR) – upstream of I-20
- ☐ Middle Reservoir (MR) – main stem between I-20 and Georgia Highway 44
- ☒ Lower Reservoir (LR) – main stem between Georgia Highway 44 and Wallace Dam
- ☒ Richland Creek (RC) – east side of the Lake

10. Where do you access Lake Oconee (refer to map)?

Armor Bridge

11. What attributes of Lake Oconee are important to your group's use, and why?

Good fishing and safety

12. What attributes of Lake Oconee, if any, discourage your group's use, and why?

Too much boat traffic

### **QUALITY OF EXISTING ACCESS TO LAKE OCONEE**

13. What is your perception of the adequacy of existing access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee?

Access is adequate. Would like to see a public ramp in the Richland Creek arm that is not associated with Reynolds Plantation.

14. What additional access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your group's use of the Lake?

Would like to see better ADA features at the facilities. wheelchair accessible bathrooms and ramps.

### **USE OF DOWNSTREAM WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA**

15. Describe your group's use, if any, of the Wallace Dam tailrace area. The tailrace area is defined as the upstream end of Lake Sinclair extending from Wallace Dam downstream about 1.3 river miles to the Georgia Highway 16 bridge (refer to map designation TR).

None

16. What are the typical size(s) of your parties using the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

17. How frequently do you use the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

18. When do you use the Wallace Dam tailrace area (seasons/days/times)?

19. Where do you access the Wallace Dam tailrace area?



20. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area are important to your group's use, and why?

21. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area, if any, discourage your group's use, and why?

#### **QUALITY OF EXISTING ACCESS TO WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA**

22. What is your perception of the adequacy of existing access and/or facilities in the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

23. What additional access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your group's use of the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

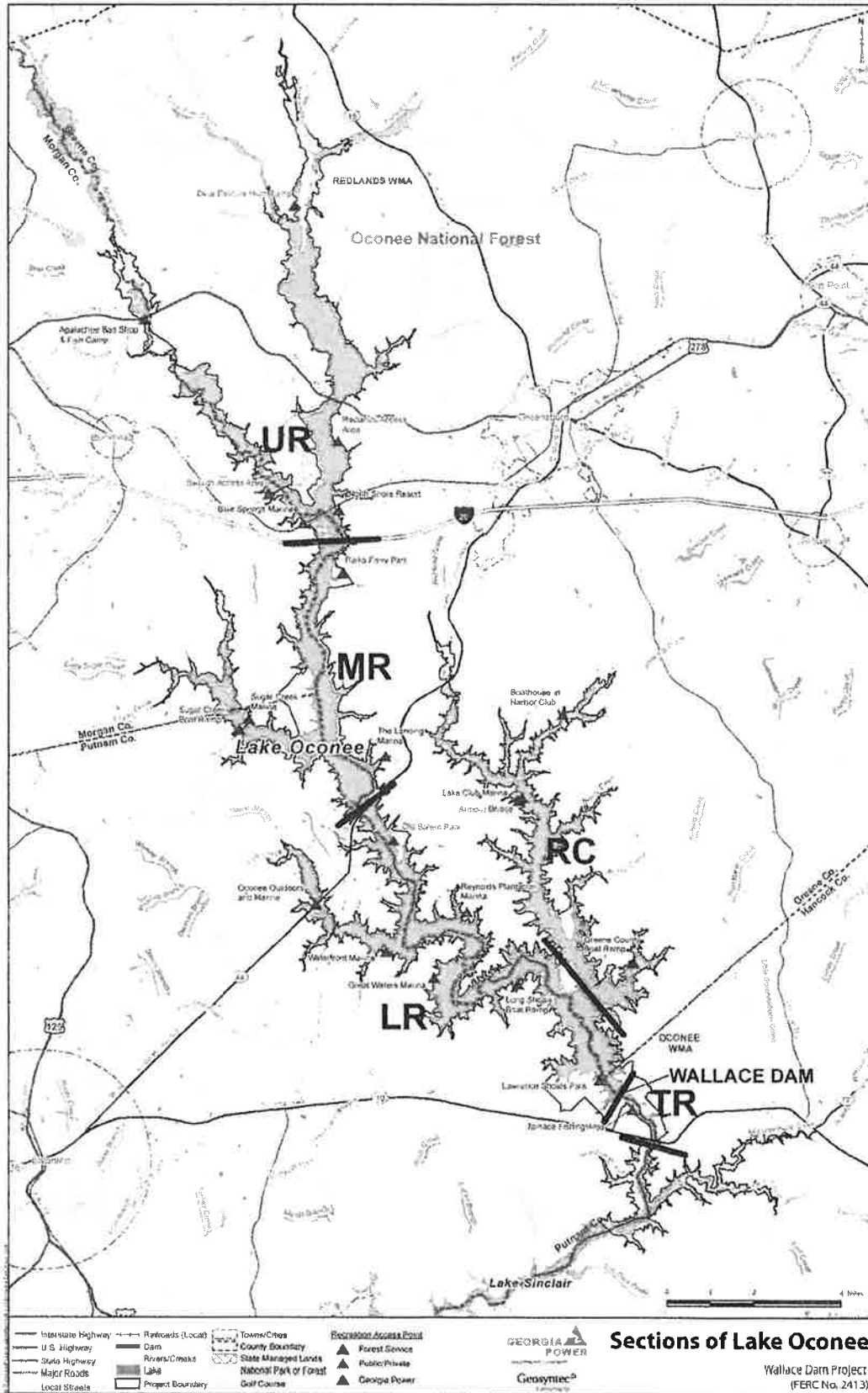
#### **GENERAL**

24. What reservoirs or river segments in the Oconee River basin, other than Lake Oconee, does your group use most frequently?

Lake Sinclair

25. What other reservoirs or rivers in the area (within a 1-hour drive of Lake Oconee) does your group use for its usual activities?

Lake Sinclair



## User Group Interview Form Wallace Dam Project (FERC No. 2413)

Date: 7/15/16	
<b>Organization:</b> Lake Country Board of Realtors	
Interviewee: Nicole Richard	
Interviewer:	Check if Self-administered: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### ORGANIZATION CHARACTERISTICS

1. Are you a governmental, non-governmental, or private organization?  
private organization
  
2. What is the purpose or mission of your organization?  
to promote Realtor productivity
  
3. How many persons participate in the local chapter of your organization?  
345
  
4. How far do your members travel to use Lake Oconee?  
1-25 miles

### USE OF LAKE OCONEE

5. Describe your group's use of Lake Oconee.  
Recreational and Real Estate Sales

6. What are the typical size(s) of your parties using Lake Oconee?

n/a

7. How frequently do you use Lake Oconee in a typical year?

weekly

8. When do you use Lake Oconee (seasons/days/times)?

weekly, all seasons, daytime

9. What areas of Lake Oconee do you use most frequently (refer to map designations)?

- ☒ Upper Reservoir (UR) – upstream of I-20
- ☒ Middle Reservoir (MR) – main stem between I-20 and Georgia Highway 44
- ☒ Lower Reservoir (LR) – main stem between Georgia Highway 44 and Wallace Dam
- ☒ Richland Creek (RC) – east side of the Lake

10. Where do you access Lake Oconee (refer to map)?

Reynolds Lake Oconee ramps, Cuscowilla ramps, Harbor Club Ramps, Sugar Creek ramps, Great Waters ramps, and many more depending on where our members are going to show property.

11. What attributes of Lake Oconee are important to your group's use, and why?

The cleanliness of the lake, the fishing, the safety, water sports, real estate purchases and boating

12. What attributes of Lake Oconee, if any, discourage your group's use, and why?

Inclement weather conditions and when the lake has a "stained" appearance (usually in the winter or after storms)

## **QUALITY OF EXISTING ACCESS TO LAKE OCONEE**

13. What is your perception of the adequacy of existing access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee?

Good

14. What additional access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your group's use of the Lake?

I'm not sure this pertains to access, but it would be nice to be able to access the Hancock County side of the lake faster by car. It takes over an hour to drive all the way around the lake to various parts of a county that our members use to sell real estate.

## **USE OF DOWNSTREAM WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA**

15. Describe your group's use, if any, of the Wallace Dam tailrace area. The tailrace area is defined as the upstream end of Lake Sinclair extending from Wallace Dam downstream about 1.3 river miles to the Georgia Highway 16 bridge (refer to map designation TR).

n/a

16. What are the typical size(s) of your parties using the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

n/a

17. How frequently do you use the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

n/a

18. When do you use the Wallace Dam tailrace area (seasons/days/times)?

n/a

19. Where do you access the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

n/a



20. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area are important to your group's use, and why?  
n/a

21. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area, if any, discourage your group's use, and why?  
n/a

### **QUALITY OF EXISTING ACCESS TO WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA**

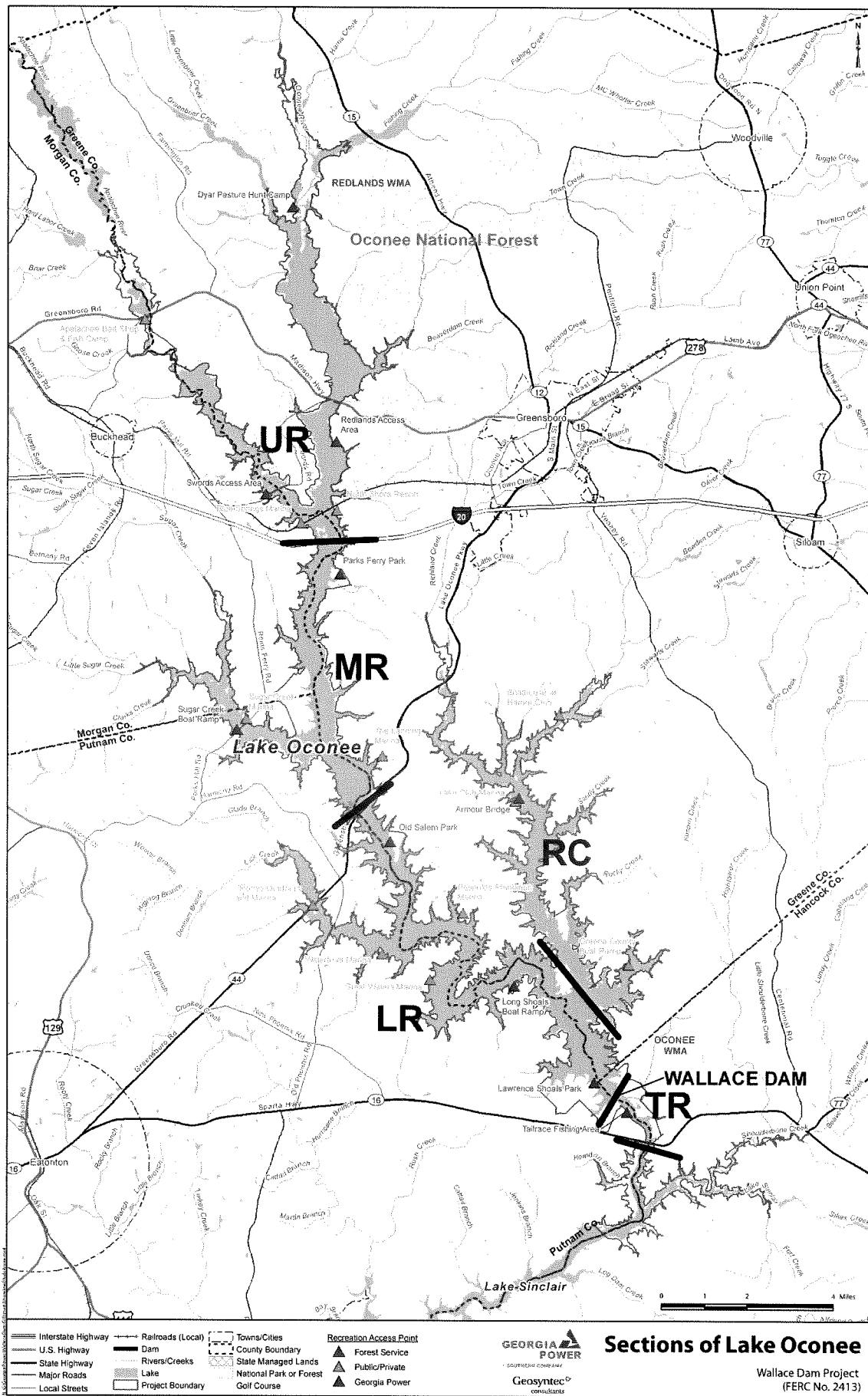
22. What is your perception of the adequacy of existing access and/or facilities in the Wallace Dam tailrace area?  
n/a

23. What additional access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your group's use of the Wallace Dam tailrace area?  
n/a

### **GENERAL**

24. What reservoirs or river segments in the Oconee River basin, other than Lake Oconee, does your group use most frequently?  
n/a

25. What other reservoirs or rivers in the area (within a 1-hour drive of Lake Oconee) does your group use for its usual activities?  
Lake Sinclair



## User Group Interview Form Wallace Dam Project (FERC No. 2413)

Date: 7-18-2016	
<b>Organization:</b> Oconee Heights Homeowners Asso.	
Interviewee: Joe Durrence and John Portz	
Interviewer:	Check if Self-administered: <input type="checkbox"/>

### ORGANIZATION CHARACTERISTICS

1. Are you a governmental, non-governmental, or private organization?  
Private
  
2. What is the purpose or mission of your organization?  
Maintain and upkeep the grounds and road in the subdivision.
  
3. How many persons participate in the local chapter of your organization?  
We have 50 homeowners in our subdivision.
  
4. How far do your members travel to use Lake Oconee?  
Local

### USE OF LAKE OCONEE

5. Describe your group's use of Lake Oconee.  
We live on the lake. Our residents have various interests, some fish, some are boating and just enjoying the beauty.

6. What are the typical size(s) of your parties using Lake Oconee?

We have 50 families, range from 2 to 6 or 7 members.  
Plus on occasions invited guest.

7. How frequently do you use Lake Oconee in a typical year?  
year round

8. When do you use Lake Oconee (seasons/days/times)?  
year round

9. What areas of Lake Oconee do you use most frequently (refer to map designations)?

- ☐ Upper Reservoir (UR) – upstream of I-20
- ☒ Middle Reservoir (MR) – main stem between I-20 and Georgia Highway 44
- ☐ Lower Reservoir (LR) – main stem between Georgia Highway 44 and Wallace Dam
- ☐ Richland Creek (RC) – east side of the Lake

10. Where do you access Lake Oconee (refer to map)?  
our subdivision boat ramp

11. What attributes of Lake Oconee are important to your group's use, and why?  
constant water level

12. What attributes of Lake Oconee, if any, discourage your group's use, and why?

### **QUALITY OF EXISTING ACCESS TO LAKE OCONEE**

13. What is your perception of the adequacy of existing access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee?  
very good
14. What additional access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your group's use of the Lake?  
none

### **USE OF DOWNSTREAM WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA**

15. Describe your group's use, if any, of the Wallace Dam tailrace area. The tailrace area is defined as the upstream end of Lake Sinclair extending from Wallace Dam downstream about 1.3 river miles to the Georgia Highway 16 bridge (refer to map designation TR).  
NA
16. What are the typical size(s) of your parties using the Wallace Dam tailrace area?  
NA
17. How frequently do you use the Wallace Dam tailrace area?  
NA
18. When do you use the Wallace Dam tailrace area (seasons/days/times)?  
NA
19. Where do you access the Wallace Dam tailrace area?  
NA



20. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area are important to your group's use, and why?  
NA

21. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area, if any, discourage your group's use, and why?  
NA

### **QUALITY OF EXISTING ACCESS TO WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA**

22. What is your perception of the adequacy of existing access and/or facilities in the Wallace Dam tailrace area?  
NA

23. What additional access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your group's use of the Wallace Dam tailrace area?  
NA

### **GENERAL**

24. What reservoirs or river segments in the Oconee River basin, other than Lake Oconee, does your group use most frequently?  
None

25. What other reservoirs or rivers in the area (within a 1-hour drive of Lake Oconee) does your group use for its usual activities?  
None

**User Group Interview Form**  
**Wallace Dam Project (FERC No. 2413)**

Date: 8/19/2017	
Organization: BIG Restaurants LLC dba Bone Island Grillhouse	
Interviewee: Michael Janson	
Interviewer:	Check if Self-administered: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**ORGANIZATION CHARACTERISTICS**

1. Are you a governmental, non-governmental, or private organization?

Private

2. What is the purpose or mission of your organization?

Restaurant

3. How many persons participate in the local chapter of your organization?

n/a

4. How far do your members travel to use Lake Oconee?

< 10 miles 80% of time  
30-50 miles

**USE OF LAKE OCONEE**

5. Describe your group's use of Lake Oconee.

Docks for access to restaurant  
Lakeside Dining

6. What are the typical size(s) of your parties using Lake Oconee?

300 - 800

7. How frequently do you use Lake Oconee in a typical year?

365

8. When do you use Lake Oconee (seasons/days/times)?

year round

9. What areas of Lake Oconee do you use most frequently (refer to map designations)?

- ☐ Upper Reservoir (UR) – upstream of I-20
- ☐ Middle Reservoir (MR) – main stem between I-20 and Georgia Highway 44
- ☒ Lower Reservoir (LR) – main stem between Georgia Highway 44 and Wallace Dam
- ☐ Richland Creek (RC) – east side of the Lake

10. Where do you access Lake Oconee (refer to map)?

N/A

11. What attributes of Lake Oconee are important to your group's use, and why?

Water-front access. Docks

12. What attributes of Lake Oconee, if any, discourage your group's use, and why?

N/A

### QUALITY OF EXISTING ACCESS TO LAKE OCONEE

13. What is your perception of the adequacy of existing access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee?

Adequate

14. What additional access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your group's use of the Lake?

None

### USE OF DOWNSTREAM WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA

15. Describe your group's use, if any, of the Wallace Dam tailrace area. The tailrace area is defined as the upstream end of Lake Sinclair extending from Wallace Dam downstream about 1.3 river miles to the Georgia Highway 16 bridge (refer to map designation TR).

None

16. What are the typical size(s) of your parties using the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

N/A

17. How frequently do you use the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

Never

18. When do you use the Wallace Dam tailrace area (seasons/days/times)?

—

19. Where do you access the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

—

20. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area are important to your group's use, and why?

—

21. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area, if any, discourage your group's use, and why?

—

#### **QUALITY OF EXISTING ACCESS TO WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA**

22. What is your perception of the adequacy of existing access and/or facilities in the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

N/A

23. What additional access and/or facilities, if any, would benefit your group's use of the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

N/A

#### **GENERAL**

24. What reservoirs or river segments in the Oconee River basin, other than Lake Oconee, does your group use most frequently?

Lake Sinclair

25. What other reservoirs or rivers in the area (within a 1-hour drive of Lake Oconee) does your group use for its usual activities?

N/A





**Facility Provider Interview Form  
Wallace Dam Project (FERC No. 2413)**

Date: 6-21-2016	
Organization: JANIS BOYD	
Interviewee:	
Interviewer:	Check if Self-administered: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**ORGANIZATION CHARACTERISTICS**

1. Are you a governmental, non-governmental, or private organization?

PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

2. What is the purpose or mission of your organization?

OPERATE GATE AND CONTROL THE ENTRANCE  
WELCOME VISITOR AND COLLECT FEES  
FOR GEORGIA POWER

**USE OF LAKE OCONEE**

3. Describe the types of access and/or facilities you provide to recreation users of Lake Oconee.

BOAT RAMP - BEACH AREA - PAUILLION AND  
CAMP GROUND

4. Are your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee open for use by the public?

YES

5. What are the primary reasons customers visit your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee?

For camping-hiking and WATER activities  
Fishing & Boating

6. When do customers use your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee (seasons/days/times)?  
MARCH 1 - SEPT 5 GATE OPENS AT 7am 7 DAYS  
A WEEK CLOSES AT 9pm AND 10 ON FRI & SAT

7. What fees, if any, do you charge for use of your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee?  
DAY FEE PARKING \$5. WHICH COVERS PICNIC AREA  
PAVILION, BOAT RAMP AND BEACH.  
TENT CAMPING \$18 RV CAMPING \$20

8. What states and counties do your customers typically reside in?  
LARGE % ARE GEORGIA AND MANY COUNTIES  
REPRESENTED

9. What areas of Lake Oconee do your customers access most frequently from your access and/or facilities (refer to map designations)?

- ☐ Upper Reservoir (UR) – upstream of I-20
- ☐ Middle Reservoir (MR) – main stem between I-20 and Georgia Highway 44
- ☒ Lower Reservoir (LR) – main stem between Georgia Highway 44 and Wallace Dam
- ☐ Richland Creek (RC) – east side of the Lake

10. How many customers use your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee on an annual basis?

9,000 - 10,000

11. What attributes of Lake Oconee are important to your customers, and why?

FISHING NEAR THE DAM  
GOOD CATCHES

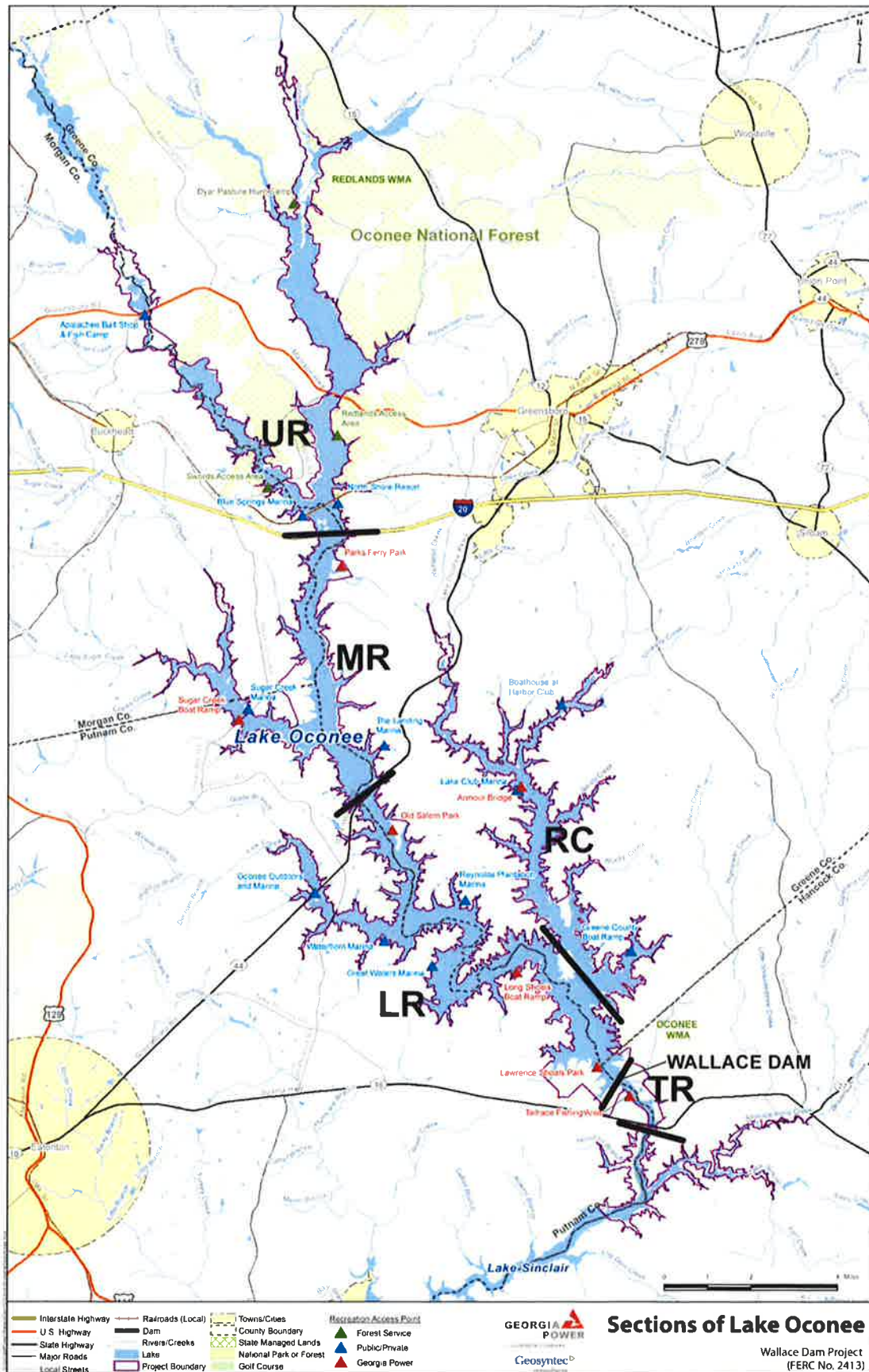
12. What attributes of Lake Oconee, if any, discourage customers from using your access and/or facilities, and why?

#### **USE OF DOWNSTREAM WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA**

13. Describe the types of access and/or facilities you provide, if any, in the Wallace Dam tailrace area. The tailrace area is defined as the upstream end of Lake Sinclair extending from Wallace Dam downstream about 1.3 river miles to the Georgia Highway 16 bridge (refer to map designation TR).

*we are close to the Georgia Highway 16 Bridge*

14. What are the primary reasons customers visit your access and/or facilities in the Wallace Dam tailrace area?
15. How many customers use your access and/or facilities in the Wallace Dam tailrace area on an annual basis?
16. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area are important to your customers, and why?
17. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area, if any, discourage customers from using your access and/or facilities, and why?





**Facility Provider Interview Form  
Wallace Dam Project (FERC No. 2413)**

Date: <i>6-22-'16</i>	
Organization: <i>Old Salem Campground (GA. Power)</i>	
Interviewee:	
Interviewer:	Check if Self-administered: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**ORGANIZATION CHARACTERISTICS**

1. Are you a governmental, non-governmental, or private organization?

*Private*

2. What is the purpose or mission of your organization?

*Operating Campground and Day Use Area.*

**USE OF LAKE OCONEE**

3. Describe the types of access and/or facilities you provide to recreation users of Lake Oconee.

*RV and Tent Camping, Swimming, Boating, Fishing, picnicing-  
playground- Three Shower Houses- 2 flush restrooms.  
Water, electric (30-50 amp.)*

4. Are your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee open for use by the public?

*Yes.*

5. What are the primary reasons customers visit your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee?

*Camping, fishing, boating, picnicing, swimming.*

6. When do customers use your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee (seasons/days/times)?

March - October - daily, 7:00 A.M. - 10: P.M.

7. What fees, if any, do you charge for use of your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee?

RV: 20.00 daily + Tents 18.00, day use, 5.00 per car.

8. What states and counties do your customers typically reside in?

Greene, Putman, Morgan, Oconee, Baldwin, Jasper  
Henry, Spalding, Rockdale, Monroe.

9. What areas of Lake Oconee do your customers access most frequently from your access and/or facilities (refer to map designations)?

- ☐ Upper Reservoir (UR) - upstream of I-20
- ☒ Middle Reservoir (MR) - main stem between I-20 and Georgia Highway 44
- ☒ Lower Reservoir (LR) - main stem between Georgia Highway 44 and Wallace Dam
- ☐ Richland Creek (RC) - east side of the Lake

10. How many customers use your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee on an annual basis?

Approx. 18,000 - Campers  
" 15,000 - Day Use

11. What attributes of Lake Oconee are important to your customers, and why?

Cleanliness of facilities, easy access, friendliness  
of camp hosts. When they come camping, its to  
relax and enjoy Thier stay.

12. What attributes of Lake Oconee, if any, discourage customers from using your access and/or facilities, and why?

*Camp sites not cleaned - bathhouses, overcrowded,  
lack of enough camp sites, understaffed for park  
maintenance (badly needed)*

**USE OF DOWNSTREAM WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA**

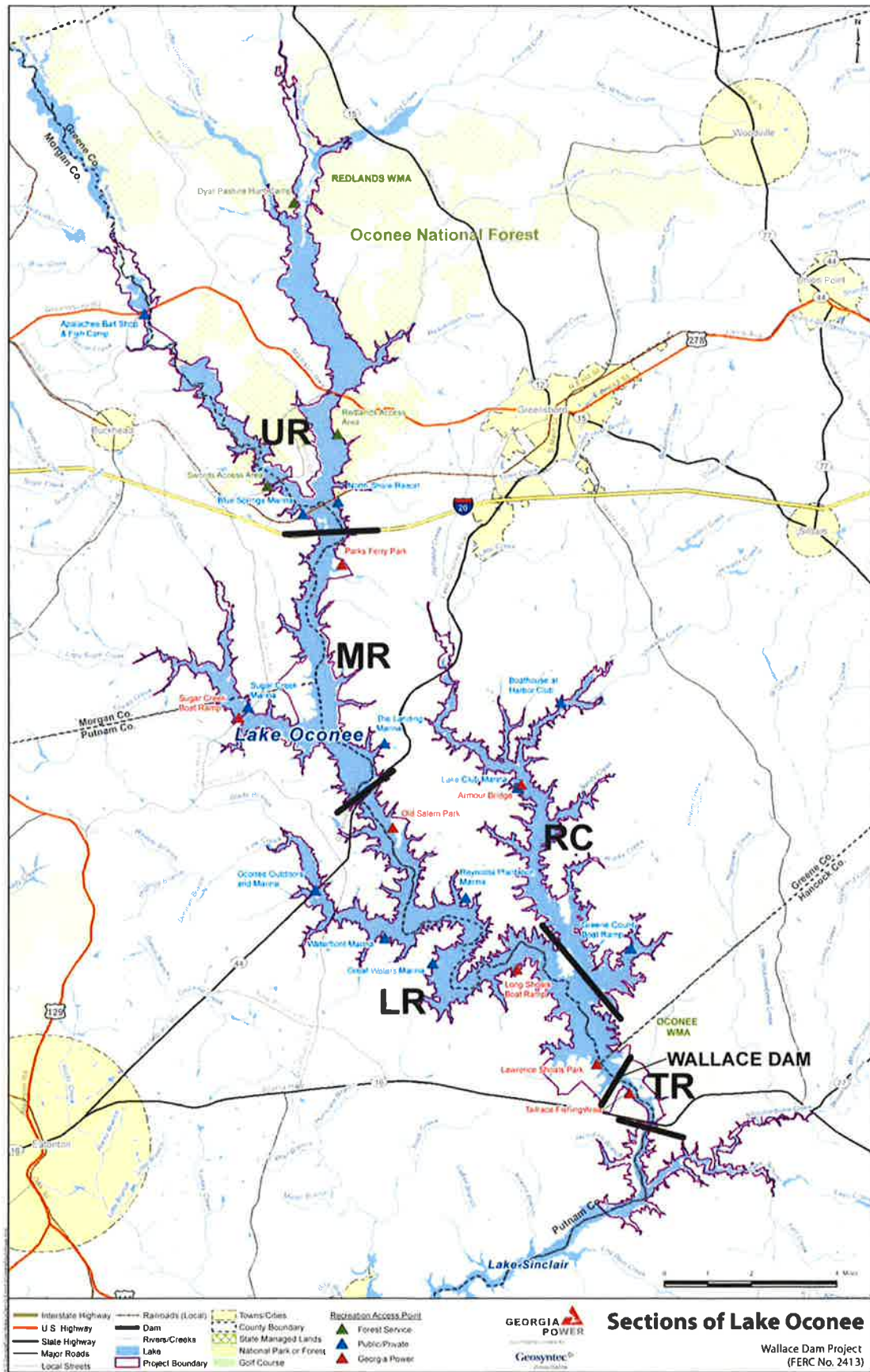
13. Describe the types of access and/or facilities you provide, if any, in the Wallace Dam tailrace area. The tailrace area is defined as the upstream end of Lake Sinclair extending from Wallace Dam downstream about 1.3 river miles to the Georgia Highway 16 bridge (refer to map designation TR).

14. What are the primary reasons customers visit your access and/or facilities in the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

15. How many customers use your access and/or facilities in the Wallace Dam tailrace area on an annual basis?

16. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area are important to your customers, and why?

17. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area, if any, discourage customers from using your access and/or facilities, and why?



## Facility Provider Interview Form Wallace Dam Project (FERC No. 2413)

Date: 6/23/2016	
<b>Organization:</b> Georgia Wildlife Resources Division	
Interviewee: <i>Drew Larson</i>	
Interviewer:	Check if Self-administered: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### ORGANIZATION CHARACTERISTICS

1. Are you a governmental, non-governmental, or private organization?

Governmental

2. What is the purpose or mission of your organization?

Conserving, enhancing and promoting Georgia's wildlife resources, including game and nongame animals, fish and protected plants.

### USE OF LAKE OCONEE

3. Describe the types of access and/or facilities you provide to recreation users of Lake Oconee.

Access to over 7,000 acres of Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Static archery range. Primitive campgrounds. Multi-use biking and hiking trails.

4. Are your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee open for use by the public?

Yes.

5. What are the primary reasons customers visit your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee?

Hunting and fishing opportunities, wildlife watching, archery, and mountain biking and hiking.



6. When do customers use your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee (seasons/days/times)?

Peak visitation is during hunting season, which is from September to May.

7. What fees, if any, do you charge for use of your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee?

A WMA stamp is required to hunt on the property. All other activities are free of charge.

8. What states and counties do your customers typically reside in?

Georgia; Greene, Hancock and Putnam counties.

9. What areas of Lake Oconee do your customers access most frequently from your access and/or facilities (refer to map designations)?

- ☐ Upper Reservoir (UR) – upstream of I-20
- ☐ Middle Reservoir (MR) – main stem between I-20 and Georgia Highway 44
- ☒ Lower Reservoir (LR) – main stem between Georgia Highway 44 and Wallace Dam
- ☐ Richland Creek (RC) – east side of the Lake

10. How many customers use your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee on an annual basis?

Greater than 10,000.

11. What attributes of Lake Oconee are important to your customers, and why?

Wildlife habitat for hunting and viewing opportunities and fish habitat for fishing.

12. What attributes of Lake Oconee, if any, discourage customers from using your access and/or facilities, and why?

None known.

### **USE OF DOWNSTREAM WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA**

13. Describe the types of access and/or facilities you provide, if any, in the Wallace Dam tailrace area. The tailrace area is defined as the upstream end of Lake Sinclair extending from Wallace Dam downstream about 1.3 river miles to the Georgia Highway 16 bridge (refer to map designation TR).

Three waterfowl impoundments.

14. What are the primary reasons customers visit your access and/or facilities in the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

Waterfowl hunting and wildlife viewing.

15. How many customers use your access and/or facilities in the Wallace Dam tailrace area on an annual basis?

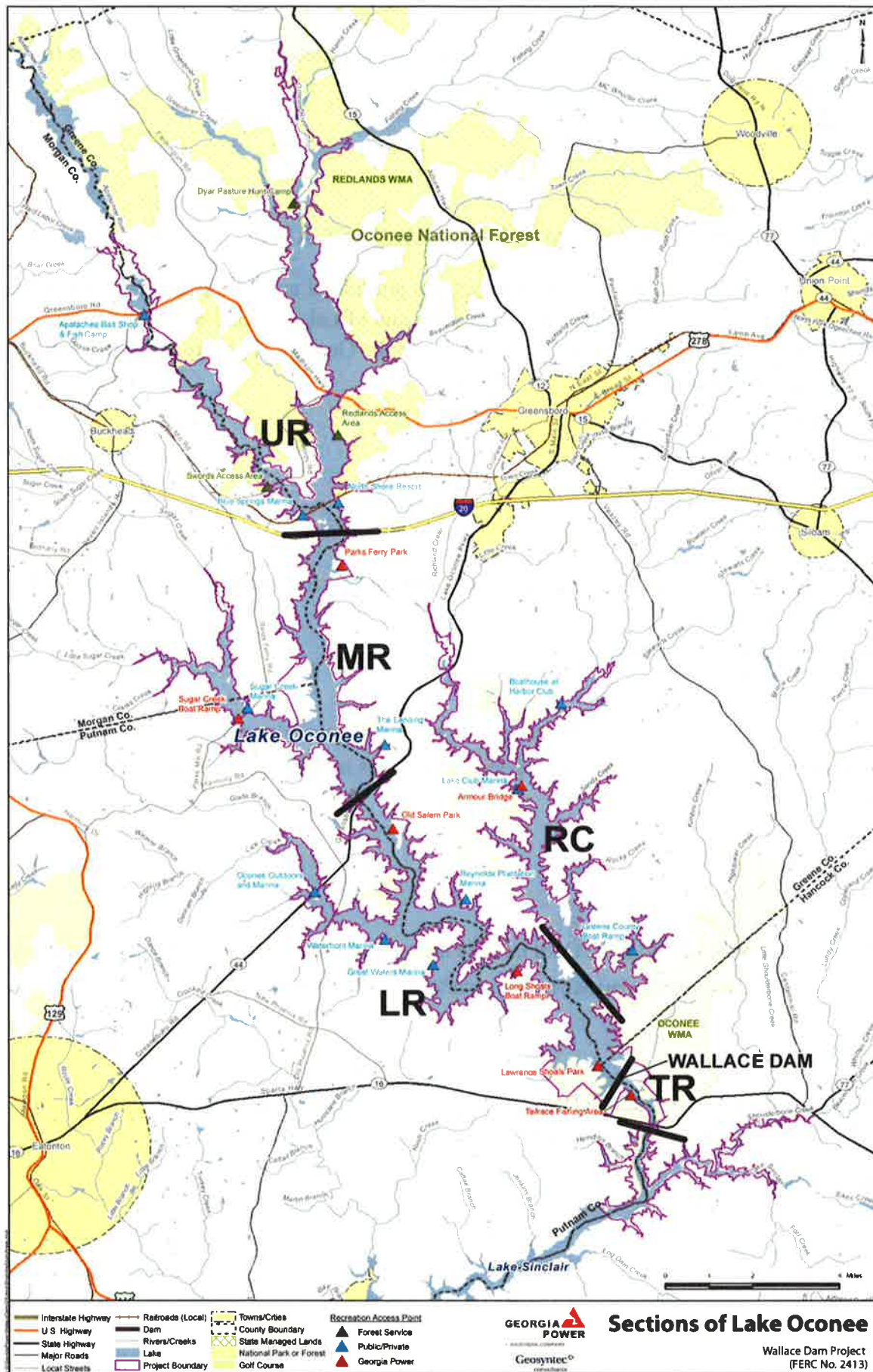
~500

16. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area are important to your customers, and why?

The tailrace is necessary for managing the waterfowl impoundments.

17. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area, if any, discourage customers from using your access and/or facilities, and why?

None known.



**Facility Provider Interview Form  
Wallace Dam Project (FERC No. 2413)**

Date: 6-19-16	
Organization: USDA Forest Service, Oconee Ranger District	
Interviewee:	
Interviewer:	Check if Self-administered: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**ORGANIZATION CHARACTERISTICS**

1. Are you a governmental, non-governmental, or private organization?

United States Government, USDA, Forest Service, Oconee Ranger District

2. What is the purpose or mission of your organization?

The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

**USE OF LAKE OCONEE**

3. Describe the types of access and/or facilities you provide to recreation users of Lake Oconee.

Lake access for fishing, boating, camping and picnicking.

4. Are your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee open for use by the public?

All access areas are open to the public.

5. What are the primary reasons customers visit your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee?

Primary uses for the Oconee Ranger Districts access areas include fishing, boating, camping hiking, picnicking and wildlife viewing.

6. When do customers use your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee (seasons/days/times)?

The majority of our areas are open year round for day use, with the exception of the overnight camping areas (Lake Sinclair and the Oconee River Recreation area)

7. What fees, if any, do you charge for use of your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee?

The day use areas charge a parking fee and the camping areas a camping fee.

8. What states and counties do your customers typically reside in?

The majority of our users are from Georgia including Greene, Putnam, Jasper, Morgan, and Jones Counties. There are some users from surrounding states.

9. What areas of Lake Oconee do your customers access most frequently from your access and/or facilities (refer to map designations)?

- ☒ Upper Reservoir (UR) – upstream of I-20
- ☐ Middle Reservoir (MR) – main stem between I-20 and Georgia Highway 44
- ☐ Lower Reservoir (LR) – main stem between Georgia Highway 44 and Wallace Dam
- ☐ Richland Creek (RC) – east side of the Lake

10. How many customers use your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee on an annual basis?

The number of annual visit range from about 4000 to 6500 visitors annually.

11. What attributes of Lake Oconee are important to your customers, and why?

What is important to our users are clean facilities with lake visibility, boater access and designated fishing areas.



12. What attributes of Lake Oconee, if any, discourage customers from using your access and/or facilities, and why?

No apparent existing attributes discourage use.

#### **USE OF DOWNSTREAM WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA**

13. Describe the types of access and/or facilities you provide, if any, in the Wallace Dam tailrace area. The tailrace area is defined as the upstream end of Lake Sinclair extending from Wallace Dam downstream about 1.3 river miles to the Georgia Highway 16 bridge (refer to map designation TR).

N/A

14. What are the primary reasons customers visit your access and/or facilities in the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

N/A

15. How many customers use your access and/or facilities in the Wallace Dam tailrace area on an annual basis?

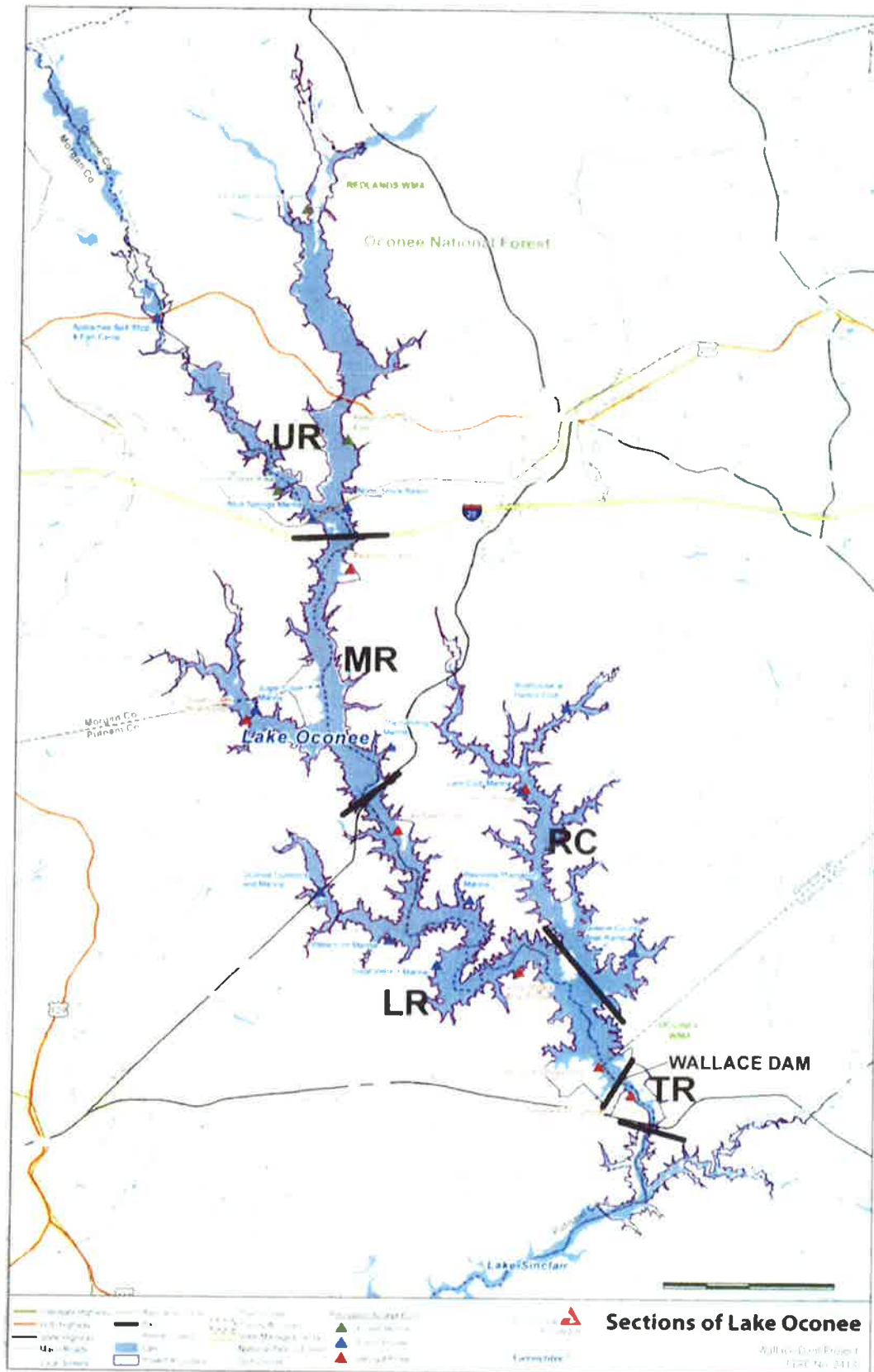
N/A

16. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area are important to your customers, and why?

N/A

17. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area, if any, discourage customers from using your access and/or facilities, and why?

N/A



**Facility Provider Interview Form**  
**Wallace Dam Project (FERC No. 2413)**

Date:	7-25-2016	
Organization:	Blue Springs Marina, Inc.	
Interviewee:	Janice Smith	
Interviewer:		Check if Self-administered: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**ORGANIZATION CHARACTERISTICS**

1. Are you a governmental, non-governmental, or private organization?

private organization

2. What is the purpose or mission of your organization?

a facility that provides boat storage +  
small camp ground with gas and convenience store.

**USE OF LAKE OCONEE**

3. Describe the types of access and/or facilities you provide to recreation users of Lake Oconee.

we have a 24 hour access ramp. 15 camper lots +  
picnic area + provide boat storage where we  
launch boats.

4. Are your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee open for use by the public?

the boat ramp is open to the public 24 hours a day  
7 days a week.

5. What are the primary reasons customers visit your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee?

Boat ramp use, bait + tackle camping +  
small retail store with gas on the dock.

6. When do customers use your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee (seasons/days/times)?

all seasons, highest <sup>boat</sup> ramp use is in the spring early in the day. Store boats year round

7. What fees, if any, do you charge for use of your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee?

Boat ramp fee is \$5.00 Boat storage \$100.00 per month.  
Camper sites fee \$30 a day.

8. What states and counties do your customers typically reside in?

state of GA

Newton County

Morgan County

DeKalb County

Rockdale County

Walton County

9. What areas of Lake Oconee do your customers access most frequently from your access and/or facilities (refer to map designations)?

- ☒ Upper Reservoir (UR) – upstream of I-20
- ☐ Middle Reservoir (MR) – main stem between I-20 and Georgia Highway 44
- ☐ Lower Reservoir (LR) – main stem between Georgia Highway 44 and Wallace Dam
- ☐ Richland Creek (RC) – east side of the Lake

10. How many customers use your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee on an annual basis?

hard to say, estimate 1500

11. What attributes of Lake Oconee are important to your customers, and why?

fishing is most important to customers here  
second is recreational

12. What attributes of Lake Oconee, if any, discourage customers from using your access and/or facilities, and why?

underwater trees destroy their boats

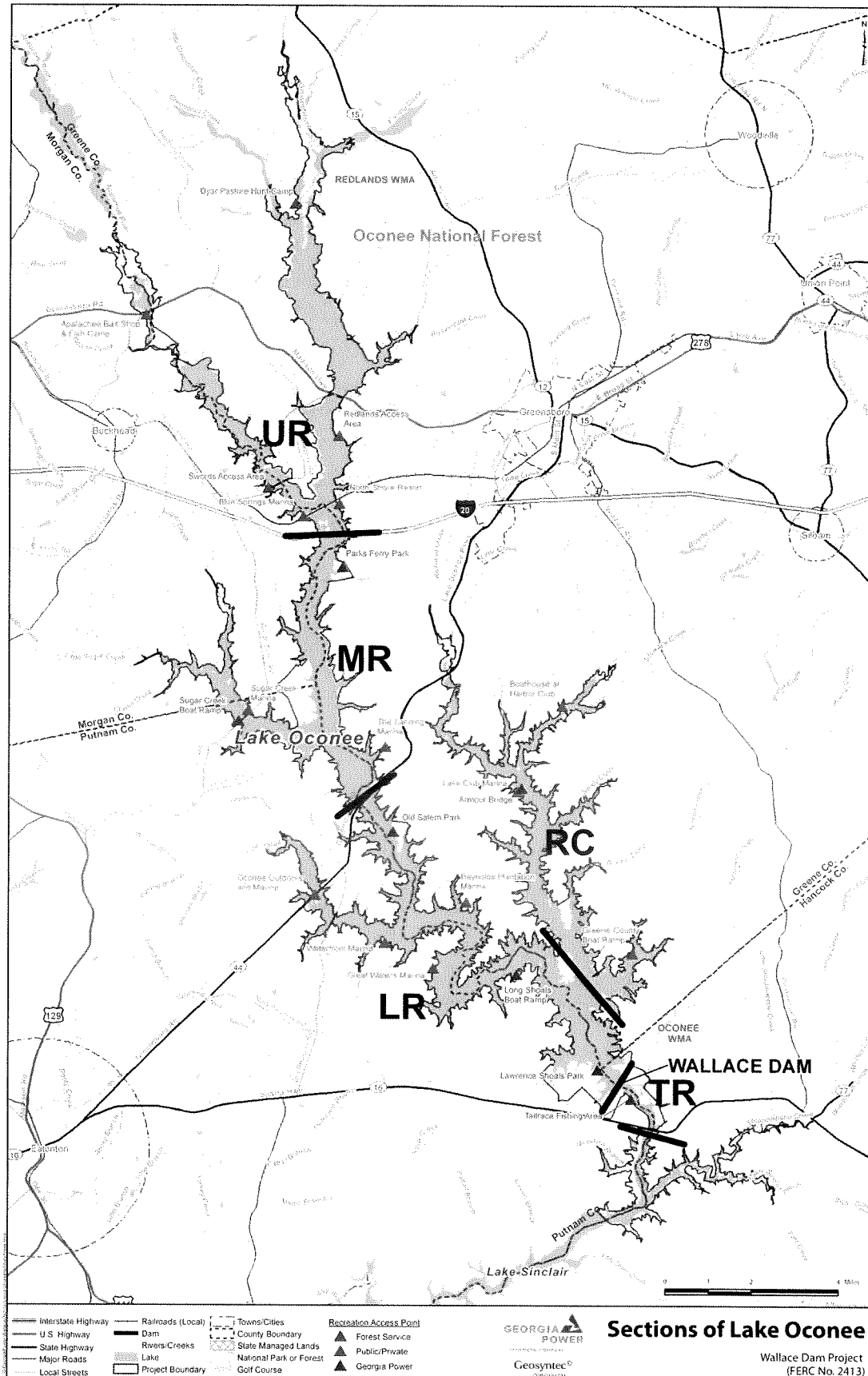
**USE OF DOWNSTREAM WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA**

13. Describe the types of access and/or facilities you provide, if any, in the Wallace Dam tailrace area. The tailrace area is defined as the upstream end of Lake Sinclair extending from Wallace Dam downstream about 1.3 river miles to the Georgia Highway 16 bridge (refer to map designation TR).

none

14. What are the primary reasons customers visit your access and/or facilities in the Wallace Dam tailrace area?
15. How many customers use your access and/or facilities in the Wallace Dam tailrace area on an annual basis?
16. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area are important to your customers, and why?
17. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area, if any, discourage customers from using your access and/or facilities, and why?





## Facility Provider Interview Form Wallace Dam Project (FERC No. 2413)

Date: July 21, 2016	
<b>Organization:</b> Jones Petroleum Company	
Interviewee:	
Interviewer:	Check if Self-administered: <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>

### ORGANIZATION CHARACTERISTICS

1. Are you a governmental, non-governmental, or private organization?

Private

2. What is the purpose or mission of your organization?

Own/Operate and convenience store, gas station and dry boat storage facility on Lake Oconee

### USE OF LAKE OCONEE

3. Describe the types of access and/or facilities you provide to recreation users of Lake Oconee.

We have public access docks where boaters park to use our convenience store or Subway restaurant or fuel their vessels with gas. We also have a public access boat ramp, from which to launch vessels.

4. Are your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee open for use by the public?

yes

5. What are the primary reasons customers visit your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee?

To fuel and/or launch their cars/boats/jet skis, etc. To eat at Subway. To shop at our convenience store. To use our dry boat storage facility.

6. When do customers use your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee (seasons/days/times)?

7 days per week, from 5a to 9p.

7. What fees, if any, do you charge for use of your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee?

\$5 boat ramp charge

Monthly storage fees for dry boat storage.

8. What states and counties do your customers typically reside in?

All over Georgia, but the majority is a local customer base.

9. What areas of Lake Oconee do your customers access most frequently from your access and/or facilities (refer to map designations)?

- ☐ Upper Reservoir (UR) – upstream of I-20
- ☐ Middle Reservoir (MR) – main stem between I-20 and Georgia Highway 44
- ☒ Lower Reservoir (LR) – main stem between Georgia Highway 44 and Wallace Dam
- ☐ Richland Creek (RC) – east side of the Lake

10. How many customers use your access and/or facilities on Lake Oconee on an annual basis?

I don't know - I'd estimate over 5000/ year

11. What attributes of Lake Oconee are important to your customers, and why?

Steady lake level, clean water, good fishing

12. What attributes of Lake Oconee, if any, discourage customers from using your access and/or facilities, and why?

Not enough dock space to accommodate all customers

#### **USE OF DOWNSTREAM WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA**

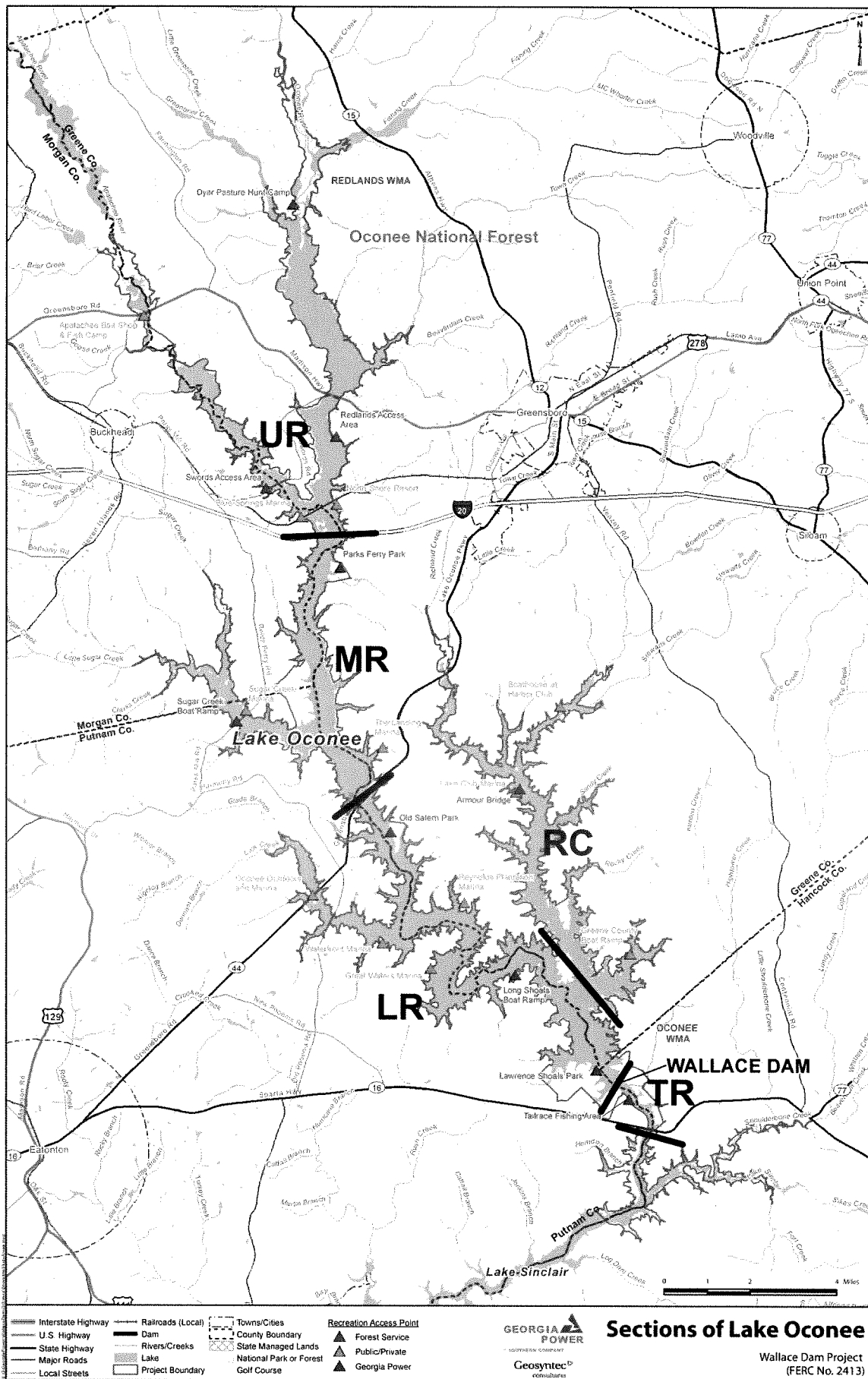
13. Describe the types of access and/or facilities you provide, if any, in the Wallace Dam tailrace area. The tailrace area is defined as the upstream end of Lake Sinclair extending from Wallace Dam downstream about 1.3 river miles to the Georgia Highway 16 bridge (refer to map designation TR).

14. What are the primary reasons customers visit your access and/or facilities in the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

15. How many customers use your access and/or facilities in the Wallace Dam tailrace area on an annual basis?

16. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area are important to your customers, and why?

17. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area, if any, discourage customers from using your access and/or facilities, and why?





## Law Enforcement Interview Form Wallace Dam Project (FERC No. 2413)

Date: September 15, 2016; 3:20 pm	
<b>Organization: Greene County Sheriff</b>	
Interviewee: Sheriff Donnie Harrison	
Interviewer: Steve Layman/Geosyntec Consultants	Check if Self-administered: <input type="checkbox"/>

### USE OF LAKE OCONEE

1. Describe the types of access and/or facilities that are important to recreation users of Lake Oconee.
  - Parks Ferry and Old Salem campgrounds
  - Many boat ramps, including Swords, Reynolds, Greene County, Oconee Village, Dyar Pasture, several private ramps in subdivisions, Liberty community, and others
2. What are the primary reasons recreation users visit facilities on Lake Oconee?
  - Boating, including fishing skiing, jet skiing, pontoon boating
  - Even bird watching groups visit once per year
  - Night use is limited mainly to fishing
  - Wildlife management area recreation is primarily fishing
3. When do recreation users visit facilities on Lake Oconee (seasons/days/times)?
  - Summer; but still a good deal of activity into September with the warm weather
4. What states and counties do recreation users typically reside in?
  - In addition to local surrounding counties: metro Atlanta, Walton, Newton, Rockdale, Barrow, Gwinnett, Clarke, and Oconee Counties

5. What attributes of Lake Oconee are important to recreation users, and why?
- Accessibility; the lake doesn't get that crowded, even on Labor Day
  - Cleanliness
6. What attributes of Lake Oconee, if any, discourage recreation users from using access and/or facilities, and why?
- None identified
  - Accessibility is not a problem; there are plenty of access points
7. What areas of Lake Oconee within your jurisdiction tend to receive the most bank fishing?
- Greshamville community (C.M. Copeland Road)
  - 278 bridge (Madison Hwy) – would appreciate seeing the old bridge there demolished; it extends out about 100 feet and has become an eyesore and an enforcement irritant
  - Swords Road
  - Carey Station Road
  - Highway 44
  - Many people come to fish off of bridges which can be dangerous; provision of good parking and safe access to the shoreline in a well-kept area would be welcome; Greene County would enforce against littering and vandalism

#### **USE OF DOWNSTREAM WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA**

8. What are the primary reasons recreation users visit the access and/or facilities in the Wallace Dam tailrace area?

NA – Greene County does not extend downstream to tailrace area

9. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area are important to recreation users, and why?

NA

10. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area, if any, discourage recreation users from using access and/or facilities, and why?

NA

*D.R. Layman*  
9/15/2016

## Law Enforcement Interview Form Wallace Dam Project (FERC No. 2413)

Date: September 16, 2016; 11:00 am	
<b>Organization: Putnam County Sheriff</b>	
Interviewee: Sheriff Howard Sills	
Interviewer: Steve Layman/Geosyntec Consultants	Check if Self-administered: _____

### USE OF LAKE OCONEE

1. Describe the types of access and/or facilities that are important to recreation users of Lake Oconee.
  - Public boat ramps, marinas that sell fuel, boat storage
2. What are the primary reasons recreation users visit facilities on Lake Oconee?
  - Camping, boating, and fishing
  - Of the nighttime use, 99 percent of the use is for fishing, other than boaters in transit on the lake to and from restaurants.
3. When do recreation users visit facilities on Lake Oconee (seasons/days/times)?
  - The season on the lake that the Putnam County Sheriff Office patrols is from Memorial Day to Labor Day.
  - Lake use swells every weekend; weekends and holidays show very significant increases in recreational use.
  - January to April there is not much lake use until the crappie start biting.
  - Facility capacity seems to be adequate right now in Putnam County; in the absence of fishing tournaments, there is adequate parking. However, a fishing tournament will occasionally overflow a parking lot at one of the marinas.
  - Three marinas (with fuel) are open to the public in Putnam County, including Sugar Creek, Oconee Outdoors, and Waterfront Marina (formerly Brantley's); Oconee Outdoors receives a great deal of use because of its location on Highway 44.

4. What states and counties do recreation users typically reside in?
  - Greene, Putnam, Baldwin, and Hancock Counties are the most common counties of origin, and then the counties surrounding those.
  - Other than these local counties surrounding the lake, lake users are almost always from metro Atlanta counties (Gwinnett, Fulton, others).
  - Occasionally see an out-of-state boat registration but very rarely.
5. What attributes of Lake Oconee are important to recreation users, and why?
  - Proximity to metro Atlanta, and this being the largest Georgia Power lake.
  - The lake is pretty pristine from the standpoint of zoning and aesthetics; there are no ramshackle boat houses. Residents are conscientious about the aesthetics of their homes.
  - Lake levels are consistent and this is very important to users, his observations are based on 28+ years of experience on the lake.
6. What attributes of Lake Oconee, if any, discourage recreation users from using access and/or facilities, and why?
  - There are a limited number of them. The lake becomes very busy on holidays and weekends and some people behave badly by driving their watercraft way too fast and being disrespectful of others.
  - Generally the surrounding property values contribute to a good overall quality of recreational use and behavior on the lake in Putnam County.
7. What areas of Lake Oconee within your jurisdiction tend to receive the most bank fishing?
  - Highway 44 right by Jerry's Bait and Tackle is the main bank fishing area in Putnam County. It gets trashed pretty badly.
  - Georgia DNR has public bank fishing facilities on Lake Sinclair within Putnam County but they haven't observed much use of those facilities.

#### **USE OF DOWNSTREAM WALLACE DAM TAILRACE AREA**

8. What are the primary reasons recreation users visit the access and/or facilities in the Wallace Dam tailrace area?
  - Fishing is the main use in the tailrace area in Lake Sinclair and 99 percent is by boat.
  - His office has never received a call about Georgia Power's Tailrace Fishing Area platform or observed much use there.

9. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area are important to recreation users, and why?

- The boat ramp on the Hancock County side; he has never seen more than 3 or 4 boat trailers parked there at one time.
- He believes the current recreation access in the tailrace area is more than adequate.

10. What attributes of the Wallace Dam tailrace area, if any, discourage recreation users from using access and/or facilities, and why?

Nothing discourages recreation use there but there is a limited amount of fishermen that would want to fish there anyway. Fishing below such a large dam can feel intimidating.

Sheriff Sills summarized closed by saying that the two lakes (Lakes Oconee and Sinclair) are an economic engine and a great asset to the Putnam County community, and that Georgia Power is easy to work with and shows good interaction and cooperation on any issue involving the lakes.

*A.R. Layman*  
9/16/2016