

WALLACE DAM



Lake Oconee

RELICENSING BRIEF: WETLANDS, WILDLIFE, AND BOTANICAL RESOURCES

- Lands and waters at the Wallace Dam Project support a variety of vegetative communities and provide diverse habitat for wildlife. Georgia Power works cooperatively with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) on wetlands and wildlife management initiatives in the project area.
- Dominant vegetative communities in the project area include mixed pine-hardwood forest, pine forest, and pasture lands. Oconee National Forest (ONF) abuts portions of upper Lake Oconee and extends inside the project boundary in several areas.
- Standing timber left within Lake Oconee and wetlands and littoral habitats surrounding the lake provide diverse habitat for wildlife, including birds, reptiles, amphibians, and small mammals. Georgia Power proactively monitors the occurrence of and periodically treats invasive terrestrial and aquatic plants within the project boundary.
- Important wetlands and waterfowl habitat in the project area include duck impoundments on Georgia Power land downstream of the dam (managed by GDNR), Oconee Wildlife Management Area (leased by Georgia Power to GDNR), and Dyar Pasture Waterfowl Conservation Area upstream of Lake Oconee (managed by USFS and partners).
- Georgia Power works cooperatively with GDNR in managing wildlife habitat at the project. Wildlife management initiatives have included planting water willow and cypress along main-stem islands within Lake Oconee to stabilize banks and improve fish and wildlife habitat, planting desirable aquatic vegetation, maintaining wood duck boxes and osprey nesting platforms, and installing fish attracting structures in the lake.
- Georgia Power timber and land management activities on undeveloped lands within and next to the project support wildlife habitat and avoid disturbance to four active bald eagle nests on Lake Oconee.
- Four federally threatened or endangered plant species (black-spored quillwort, mat-forming quillwort, Harperella, and little amphianthus) and one federally endangered bird (red-cockaded woodpecker) potentially occur in the project vicinity but none of these species are presently known to occur within the project boundary.

Bottom Line Take Away: The Wallace Dam project area is home to a wide variety of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. Georgia Power works cooperatively with GDNR, USFS, and others to manage its lands and waters for the protection and maintenance of plant and wildlife habitat.

Issue Contact: Joey Slaughter and Ben Dickerson