

Georgia Power honored as a 2016 Forestry for Wildlife Partner

Friday, Feb. 10, 2017 – Georgia Power was one of three corporate forest landowners recognized by Gov. Nathan Deal for its stewardship and land management practices benefiting the state’s wildlife.

Georgia Power was honored by Deal as a 2016 partner in the Forestry for Wildlife Partnership, a program that is administered by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR) Wildlife Resources Division. Other honorees were CatchMark Timber Trust and Weyerhaeuser. The program involves corporate forest landowners, who voluntarily manage their lands to benefit Georgia wildlife, and Georgians, who enjoy the outdoors through wildlife viewing, hunting and fishing.



Cathy Hill, vice president, Land, Gov. Nathan Deal, Mark Berry, vice president, Environmental Affairs and DNR Commissioner Mark Williams.

Mark Berry, vice president, Environmental Affairs, and Cathy Hill, vice president, Land, participated in a brief ceremony at the State Capitol, including Deal, DNR Commissioner Mark Williams, Deputy Commissioner Walter Rabon and others. As part of the ceremony, Berry and Hill were presented a book – *Amphibians and Reptiles of Georgia*.

“This recognition shows that Georgia Power is a leader in environmental stewardship,” Berry said.

He said the program acknowledges best practices for timber management – those with minimal impact to wildlife. One such example involves the management of longleaf pines, which provide habitat for gopher tortoise. Incorporating best practices, such as through controlled burning of longleaf pine stands, is a benefit to Georgia’s official state reptile.

“That (controlled burns) alone creates a good habitat for gopher tortoise, which like a certain type of soil and underbrush,” Berry said.

Georgia has more than 24 million acres of forestland. Of that, corporate forest landowners manage about 12 percent. Georgia Power is one of the state’s largest landowners. The company has been a partner since the program started in 1999.

“We have the longest standing partnership, which demonstrates our commitment to sustaining and enhancing Georgia’s wildlife environment,” Hill said.