# Beneath the surface: a closer look at Georgia Power's lakes


Monday 08, 2017 – Even though the 4th of July holiday weekend has come and gone, there are still plenty of weekends left in the summer to take advantage of one of Georgia Power's numerous lakes.

Whether it's one of the Bartletts Ferry lakes near the Alabama border, Lake Jackson north of Macon or a northeastern Georgia lake near the mountains, Georgia Power's aquatic properties offer plenty of places to escape for recreation and relaxation. But did you know that the company does a lot more at these lakes than simply maintain them for recreational use or for power generation?

Georgia Power biologists, foresters and land managers work in conjunction with many federal, state and local groups to actively manage aquatic plants, conserve and manage fisheries, and protect water quality and quantity.

Below are a few examples:

**Aquatic Plant Management**

Georgia Power is constantly working to control and remove invasive exotic plants that may be harmful to the environment and detrimental to the native ecosystems of its lakes. Those invasive exotic plants not only replace native species and clog waterways, but also contribute to unsightly shorelines. At the same time, the company works to preserve native aquatic plants and promote the wise management of those species, so they can thrive. Strong native aquatic plant communities are vital to a lake's ecosystem because they help clean the water, provide habitat for fish and other wildlife and stabilize the shore in areas where erosion risks might occur.

**Fisheries**

Georgia Power promotes responsible fisheries management in all of its waters. In cooperation with Georgia DNR, fish attractors and fish habitat structures have been introduced into the company's lakes. Georgia Power has also partnered with state and local authorities to stock lakes with a variety of fish and actively participates in the conservation and management of several rare aquatic species through responsible generation facility operation and on-ground restoration activities.

**Wetlands**

Comparable to rain forests and coral reefs, wetlands are among the most productive ecosystems in the world. In addition to providing habitats for reptiles, fish, waterfowl, mammals, plants and more, they absorb excess nutrients, sediment and other pollutants before they reach rivers, lakes and other larger bodies of water. When rivers overflow, they also help to absorb and slow floodwaters, often

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other pollutants. In addition to this general sampling program, each public beach area is sampled weekly during the recreational season to ensure that the water at each location is free of potentially harmful bacteria and safe for swimming.