

RIGHTS OF WAY ENDANGERED SPECIES **SURVEY FOR NORTHWEST REGION OF** **GEORGIA.**

The Northwest Region consists of the following 16 counties: Dade, Walker, Catoosa, Whitfield, Murray, Gilmer, Chatooga, Gordon, Pickens, Floyd, Bartow, Polk, Haralson, Cherokee, Carroll, Paulding.

Based on the Georgia Natural Heritage Inventory records, the following plants, plant communities and animal habitats were searched for on Georgia Power Company rights of way.

Plants:

Royal catchfly – *Silene regia*
Rattlesnake root – *Preanthus barbata*
Coosa Barbara button – *Marshalli mohrii* (Federal Threatened)
Blue wild indigo – *Baptisia australis var australis*
Spreading yellow foxglove – *Aureolaria patula*
Little River black-eye Susan – *Rudbeckia heliopsidis*
Yellow-eyed grass – *Xyris tennesseensis* (Federal Endangered)
Allegheny spurge – *Pachysandra procumbens*
Cedar glade plant community

Animals:

Gray Myotis – *Myotis grisescens* (Federal Endangered)

There are two maintenance concerns. Both locations (Coosa Barbara buttons) are in Floyd county on the same line four structures apart. (See Floyd county summary).

Discussion and Recommendations: The northwest region is mountainous with rolling hills, farms and residential areas associated with Chattanooga Tennessee and Dalton, Georgia in the north portion and Rome, Cartersville and Atlanta Georgia in the south portion. Most of the plant locations recorded from this region are in Floyd county. Only two locations (#1113 and #860, Coosa Barbara button) were found that offer some concerns to line maintenance. Both locations are on the same line, only four tower structures apart. The line is a dual 230/115Kv line near the Alabama line. Unfortunately

the locations have not been GPSed but will be as soon as flowering occurs in 2003. No satellites were available on the first effort and a second effort failed because there was no access available (Non-Georgia Power locks on gates). The field sheets do provide a detail location description using tower numbers and location sketches. Another Coosa Barbara button location was checked approximately 250 feet off the line. The site appears to have been plowed up to plant trees. Two other federal listed species (yellow eyed grass and Gray bat) locations were looked for but not found. Interstate 75 may be built on the yellow eyed grass site and caves associated with the bat locations were not found on the right of way.

Recommendations for the two sites are to protect the plants during growing season by first; notifying transmission Maintenance of where the plants are located and then; restricting herbicide use or mowing during the flowering/fruiting seas (mid-May-August) in the vicinity of wooden H-frame #84 and Metal H-frame #44, if possible. Georgia Natural Heritage Inventory recommends preventing encroachment of woody vegetation as a management strategy. In this case; mowing is maintaining growing conditions for the plant. We would recommend that herbicide use be curtailed in the area around wooden H-frame #84 and Metal H-frame 44.

Species locations were taken from maps provided by Southern GPS that combined GNHI location points of ROW maps. Locations in close proximity (300 – 600 feet) were selected for field survey for either the proper habitat or the actual presents of the species. The survey was specific for plants, plant communities and unique vertebrate habitat (caves, dens, rookeries). Fish, aquatic invertebrates and terrestrial vertebrates were not included in the survey. Each field survey was summarized on a field sheet that noted the presence or absence of the species along with maintenance concerns if appropriate. A GPS reading was taken either at the species location or the closest Tower structure if the species was not found.

SURVEY SUMMARY FOR THE NORTHWEST REGION

All the counties within the Northwest Region are summarized below. The GPC number is listed along with the common name of the plant/animal. The numbered line items refer to locations within the county; only those signified by bold print were considered close enough to the ROW to field survey. Line items in regular print refer to animal species not considered in the survey or locations too far from the line to be of concern, usually 500-700 feet.

DADE COUNTY (1 Location Required Field Survey. No Maintenance Concern).

#1085 – Royal Catchfly. Reference was made to a utility pole #534 on Highway 11. The pole has been replaced and it is not a power pole but a

communications pole. The nearest power pole is ½ to ¼ mile away. No maintenance concern. (Field Note #89/21 August 2001).

- #939 – Redline Darter
- #968 – Snub-nosed darter
- #408 – Long Flower Skullcap. Near a TVA line.

WALKER COUNTY (1 Location Required Field Survey. No Maintenance Concern)

#1168 – Cedar Glade Plant Community – The cedar glade is present on either side of the ROW. It is in pasture and has been for some time, eliminating the need for line maintenance, unless the line is widened. No maintenance concern. (Field Note #88/21 August 2001).

- #1139 – Glade Cypress – Near flowing spring, about ¼ mile from line.
- #1099 – Redline darter
- #779 – Ozark Bunchflower – TVA line
- #836 – Wild Hyacinth – TVA line
- #739 – Goldenseal – 4 miles from any line
- #1123 – Bluenose minnow – not close to any line
- #254 – Goldenseal – The closest line is a 230Kv located 1.5 miles west
- #485 – Lime rock Milk vine – It is located 2 miles south of an 115Kv OPC line

CATOOSA COUNTY (No Location Required Field Survey)

- #851 – Large Flower Skullcap – In Chickamauga Park
- #1137 – Nashville Breadroot – In Chickamauga Park – under TVA line
- #985 – Barrens Sunflower – On side of Highway 2, Battlefield Parkway, near Chickamauga Battlefield; close to TVA line.
- #1161 – Dusky darter
- #1057 – Mimic Shiner
- #774 – Redline Darter
- #1182 – Rose fin Shiner
- #612 – Flame Chub

WHITFIELD COUNTY (No Location Required Field Survey)

- #870 – Tripod Darter - Southeast corner of the county, ½ mile from a 115Kv line
- #1050 – Upland Comb shell - On county line, 1 mile west of 230Kv line
- #1164 – Tripot darter - 2 miles west of OPC line.
- #398 – Tri-angular Kidney Shell - One mile southeast of 230Kv line.
- #1089 – Amber Darter - ½ mile south of OPC 115Kv line.
- #896 – Amber Darter - 1 ½ mile North of OPC 115Kv line.
- #1081 – Southern Club shell - Under 230/550Kv on Highway 76.

- #981 – Fine Line Pocketbook - One mile east of 500Kv line on Highway 2.
- #1072 – Eastern Brook Lamprey – North part of county, 1 ½ mile west of 500Kv line
- #7 – Trispot Darter – Near 115Kv line

MURRAY COUNTY (No Location Required Field Survey)

- #896 – Amber Darter – On the county line; 1 mile north of 115/230Kv line
- #1089 – Amber Darter- on the county line, 1/2 miles below Dual 115/230Kv
- #1050 – Upland Combshell – County line, 1 mile from the nearest line
- #918 – Coosa Darter – 3 or 4 miles to nearest line
- #845 – Longleaf Waterleaf – Carter’s Lake, 3 miles to closest Line
- #524 – Georgia Aster – 1933 record in Chatsworth, 3-4 miles to closest line

GILMER COUNTY (No Location Required Field Survey)

- #791 – Blue Shiner – 1963 record
- #977 – Goldline Darter – 1965 Record, ½ miles from 46Kv line
- #1087 – Goldline Darter – Ellijay River; appears to be under a 45Kv OPC line
- #1134 – Goldline Darter – Highway 52 and Ellijay River, appears to be near a 46Kv OPC line
- #1173 – Goldline Darter – Cartecay River at Highway 52, appears to be on a 46Kv OPC line
- #577 – Goldline Darter – Cartecay River/route 101. One mile south of 46Kv line

CHATOOGA COUNTY (No Location Required Field Survey)

- #432 – Fine-Lined Pocketbook – pre-1974 record, Chatooga River at Lyerly Georgia, .3 miles south of 46Kv line
- #800 – Fine-Lined Pocketbook - Pre-1974 record, where Highway 100 crosses the Chatooga, about 1 mile east and south of 46Kv lines and 1 mile west of 115/230Kv dual lines
- #1169 – Coosa Moccasinshell – Pre-1974, Chatooga River at Summerville. There are 46,230 and 115Kv lines around it.
- #1180 – Fine-Lined Pocketbook – Pre-1974, Chatooga River at Trion, near a 115Kv line
- #15 – Purple Sedge – Lookout Creek, 1 mile south of Trenton, approximately .5 mile west of 115Kv line
- #621 – Gray Myotis – 1 mile north of 46Kv line
- #50 – 50 Smooth Purple Cone Flower – Erroneous location, this appears to be a Stephens county record.

GORDON COUNTY (No Location Required Field Survey)

- #1018 – Southern Clubshell – pre-1974 record; appears to be on a spur from a OPC 115Kv Line
- #343 – Southern Clubshell – pre-1974, Oostanula River, ½ mile from line (DNC)
- #844 – Peregrine Falcon – Town of Calhoun
- #870 – Trispot Darter – ½ mile southeast of end of a 115Kv spur from OPC.
Record is from the county line
- #277 – Silver chub – Not close to any lines

PICKENS COUNTY (No Locations Required Field Survey)

- #974 – Silver Streak Shiner – Near Tate
- #658 – Coosa Darter

FLOYD COUNTY (7 locations Required Field Surveys. 2 Major Concerns, FEDERAL PROTECTED SPECIES)

#951 - Rattlesnake Root – Northwest of Rome. In a residential area. Address is 2 Idlewood court. Plants were not found. Map indicates the location is in the front yard of the residence. ROW is partially maintained as a yard/orchard. No maintenance concern. (Field Note #90/22 August 2001)..

#55 – Coosa Barbara Button - The seepage area where the plants occurred is off the line approximately 250 feet. The land has been cleared, possibly with herbicide, by the landowner and planted in pines. No plants were found. No maintenance concern. (Field Note #25/8 June 2000)

#1113 – Blue Wild Indigo – Also Coosa Barbara buttons (new record) were found at this location growing across the ROW between Wooden H-frame tower #84 and Metal H-frame tower #44. We also found a Bachman sparrow as well. The area appears to get a lot of use by ORVs. Mowing would have minimal impact on the species and may be beneficial. Restrict use of herbicide in the immediate area would be appropriate. Major concern. (Field note#29/8 June 2000).

#860 – Coosa Barbara Button – 3 Plants found in wet area of ROW near Wooden H-frame #79. This location is in a wet area that is being taken over by weeds and grasses. Same suggestions as #1113. Major concern. (Field Note #30/8 June 2000).

- #777 - Spreading Yellow Foxglove**
- #335 – Little River Black-eye Susan**
- #1126 – Coosa Barbara Buttons**

All were shown to be at the same location. No plants were found and the area had been cleared and planted. The location is adjacent to the ROW. No maintenance concern. (Field Note #25,/8 June 2000).

#796 – Coosa Darter – North end of the county. Closest Line is a 115Kv about 5 miles west in the next county

#495- Royal Catchfly – Lavender Mountain, 4-5 miles to the nearest line

#54 – ERROR, not a gopher tortoise, probably #55.

#1100 – Virginia Mountain Mint – Off Highway 100 between Cave Springs and Coosa River near Foster Mills. 720 feet from line

#983 – Rattlesnake Root – near Battlefield Elementary School. Over 1 mile from 115-230Kv Line

BARTOW COUNTY(2 Locations were Field Surveyed. No Concerns)

#1172 – Yellow-eyed Grass – 1951 record, North of Cartersville near a 46/115Kv lines crossing over I-75. Just west of Junction of I-75 and US 441, Downstream of Aubrey Lake. From the description; I-75 may well be setting atop this location. The line is about 200 feet from the stream where the springs may have been and crosses the side of a hill probably 50-60 feet above the creek elevation. No maintenance concern. (Field Note #87, 21 August 2001).

#275 – Gray Myotis (Cave) – There are no signs of caves on the ROW. The locations appears to be in a swamp(?). There also may be some confusion with a Polk county site. No maintenance concern. (Field Note #92/22 August 2001).

#1026 – chestnut Lamprey

#610 – Cherokee Darter

#67 – Carpenter Frog

#730 – Cylindrical Lioplax

#813 – Wild Hyacinth – Poor location, about ½ mile from line

#801 – Seaside Alder – Poor location

#978 – Lanceleaf Trillium

#65 – Riffle Minnow

POLK COUNTY(1 Location Required Field Survey. No Maintenance Concerns).

#1121 – Gray Myotis (Cave) – 1965 record, Taylorsville/Deaton Cave, appears to be about 700 feet from line. No caves on line. No maintenance concern. (FIELD NOTE #91/22 August 2001).

#1028 – Royal Catchfly

HARALSON COUNTY (1 Location Required Field Survey. No Maintenance Concern)

#284 – Allegheny Spurge-The population is about 6-800 feet from the nearest line and located in a different habitat. No maintenance concern. (Field Note #23/22 August 2001).

#1069 – Lipstick Darter

CARROLL COUNTY (No Location Required Field Survey)

There are no records to be surveyed in this area of Carroll County. There is one record #715, Bay Star vine in the Southeast corner of the county, but it is off the line.

PAULDING COUNTY (No Location Required Field Survey)

There are no records to be surveyed in the entire county.

#624 Green breast darter

#492 Cherokee darter

#506 Bigeye chub