

RIGHTS OF WAY ENDANGERED SPECIES SURVEY FOR SOUTH- CENTRAL REGION OF GEORGIA

The South Central Region of Georgia includes the following 11 counties: Grady, Thomas, Berrien, Brooks, Colquitt, Cook, Ben Hill, Irwin, Lowndes, Turner and Tift.

The following plant and animal species were surveyed for on Georgia Power rights of way:

Plants:

Dwarf Goats Rue *Tephrosia mohrii*
 Parrot Pitcher Plant *Sarracenia psittacina*
 Hooded Pitcher Plant *Sarracenia minor*
 Yellow Fly Trap *Sarracenia flava*
 Green-fly Orchid *Epidendrum conopseum*
 Le Conte Wild Indigo *Baptisia lecontei*

Animals:

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
 Gopher Tortoise *Gopherus polyphemus*.

Berriens (1 gopher tortoise location) and Lowndes (1 yellow fly trap location) were the only counties with maintenance concerns. Both are minor concerns.

Discussion and Recommendations:

1. The Lowndes County site is an active gopher tortoise den, discovered while unsuccessfully looking for a plant species (LeConte Wild Indigo) at wood pole structure #324 on a 69Kv line 12 miles southeast of Valdosta, near Twin Lakes. Both sides of the right of way had been cleared and replanted. While Gopher Tortoise burrows are fairly common in southern Georgia; Georgia Power Company has historically protected their burrows from line maintenance operations. In reality rights of way are probably providing habitat and a certain amount of protection as intense forestry and agriculture practices eliminate much of their habitat. The den location information should be given to the forester in

charge of line maintenance so that he can pass the information along to the clearing contractors to avoid the burrow(s) with vehicles while working on the lines.

2. The Berriens County site is a Yellow Fly Trap Pitcher Plant colony on a 46kv line in the northern part of the county. It is in the right of way, 100 feet east of structure #93, Near US highway 82 and County Road 103. Yellow Fly Trap is abundant in Southern Georgia particularly on rights of way as pitcher plants prefer areas of high light intensity for healthy growth. This colony was not particularly healthy probably due to dry weather's affect on the wetland habitat where the plants were found. Recommendations include: continued rights of way maintenance as shrub and overstory species out compete pitcher plants, low vehicular impacts on wetlands and areas with pitcher plant colonies and restricting or careful use of herbicides around pitcherplant colonies.

SURVEY SUMMARY FOR THE SOUTH-CENTRAL REGION

All the counties within the East 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 in bold print were considered close enough to the rights of way to field survey. Line items in unbold print refer to animal species not consider in the survey or locations too far from the line to be of concern, usually 500-700 feet.

GRADY COUNTY (1 Location Required Field Surveying, No Maintenance concern))

#399 – Dwarf Goat Rue - 230/115Kv line, northwest of Whigham. No plants were found. The right of way is surrounded by houses and a junkyard. No maintenance concerns (Field Note # 126, 16 May 2002)

#823 - Southern Twayblade.

#349 – Green-fly Orchid.

THOMAS COUNTY (1 location Required Field Survey. No Maintenance Concern)

#180 – Parrot Pitcher Plant - 46Kv line, north of Ochlocknee. No plants were found. The record is 70 years old. The right of way is partially maintained in a park-like condition by Oil-Dri corporation. The wetland is a drainage ditch and is

in bad condition at the right of way. No maintenance concerns (Field Note #125, 15 May 2002).

- #295 – Yellow Fly Trap.
- #158 – Hooded Pitcher Plant.
- #514 – Hooded Pitcher Plant.
- #687 – Southeastern Myotis.
- #583 – Yellow Fringeless Orchid.
- #512 – Yellow Fly Trap.

BERRIEN COUNTY (2 Locations Required Field Surveys. 1 Minor Maintenance Concern)

#746 – Hooded Pitcher Plant - 230Kv line, East of Nashville. No plants found on the right of way. The locations where the plant should occur is well off the line and are being cut up for housing tracts. No maintenance concerns. (Field Note #9, 1 March 2000).

#1183 – Yellow Fly Trap - 46Kv line, northern part of county. Plants were found in the right of way. The habitat is a wetland. Plants are in poor condition. Minor maintenance concern. (Field Note #8, 1 March 2000).

- #86 – Hooded Pitcher Plant - Four miles N.W. of Alapaha. No lines are located N.W. of Alapaha.
- #315 – Mud Sunfish.
- #501 – Parrot Pitcher Plant.
- #743 – Flatwoods salamander - “Just north of Alapaha” is poor location description.

BROOKS COUNTY (No Location Required Field Survey)

- #313 – Yellow Fly Trap.
- #942 – Yellow Fly Trap.
- #1063 – Green Fly Orchid.
- #381 – Hooded Pitcher Plant.
- #535 – Yellow Fly Trap.

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

#214 – Yellow Fly Trap - 46Kv line off the Moultrie East By-pass. No plants found. The By-pass may have taken the population. No maintenance concern (Field Note #124, 15 May, 2002).

- #998 – Hooded Pitcher Plant.
- #879 – Yellow Fly Trap.

- #213 – Golden Top Minnow.
- #1101 – Wire-Leaf Dropseed.
- #772 – Yellow Fly Trap.

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

#364 - Hooded Pitcher Plant - 230/115Kv line, North or Adel. No plants were found. All likely habitat has been removed and put into cultivation. No maintenance concerns (Field Note #10/1 March 2000).

- #479 – Hooded Pitcher Plant.
- #447 – Sprawling white tassels.
- #936 – Hooded Pitcher Plant.

BEN HILL COUNTY (No Location Required Field survey)

- #134 – Parrot Pitcher Plant - 5 miles north of Ocilla. This location does not appear on the computer generated maps.
- #1140 – Pondspice.
- #688 – Grit Beardstongue.
- #115 – Hooded Pitcher Plant - "17 miles east of Fitzgerald" No lines in the area
- #660 – Island glass Lizard - near Osierfield.

IRWIN COUNTY (No Location Required Field Survey)

- #165 – Yellow Fringeless Orchid - US 129 on Irwin-Ben Hill county line.
- #996 – Scale-leaf Purple Fox glove - same location as #165.
- #877 – Yellow Crown Night Heron - OPC 500Kv line is 1 mile south of location.

Note: #165 and #996 are at same location.

TETRA-TECH SURVEY LOCATIONS (Already reported to DNR by Tetra-tech)
T-18, Balduina, on the east bank of Wiggins Creek, near the Irwin-Coffee county line, on the 500Kv line.

LOWNDES COUNTY (4 locations Required Field Surveys. One New Location. Minor Maintenance Concern)

#864 – Osprey - 230/115Kv line, near Florida line. The record is a "Fly Over" record and not a nest. A military recreation lake (Grassy Lake) is about ½ mile

from the right of way. The right of way transects a sewage spray area. No maintenance concerns. (Field Note # 13, 1 March 2000).

#830 – Hooded Pitcher Plant - 230/115Kv line, North of Valdosta. No plants were found. The wetland portion of the right of way is too thick for pitcher plants and the adjacent areas are not suitable habitat either. No maintenance concerns (Field Note #11, 1 March 2000).

#232 – Green fly Orchid - Just West of Valdosta. The orchid was found in a 28" dbh magnolia growing in an old historic site (Troupville cemetery). The location is approximately 250 yards from the right of way. No maintenance concerns (Field note # 12/1 March 2000).

#1013 – Le Conte Wild Indigo - 69Kv line, 12 miles southeast of Valdosta. No Plants found. Area on either side of right of way has been sprayed with herbicide and replanted. No maintenance Concern (Field note #15, 1 March 2000).

NEW – Gopher Tortoise - An active den was found in the same location as #1013. Minor mainenance concern (Field Note #14, 1 March 2000).

#991 – Georgia milkwort. 1300 feet from line.

#757 – Golden top minnow.

#188 – Gopher tortoise - 1 mile from 69Kv line

#226 – Yellow Fly Trap - over 1 mile E and S of 115Kv lines.

#493 – Yellow Fly Trap - 1 mile east of 115Kv line near Moody AFB entrance.

#713 – Yellow Fly Trap - 1 mile west of 115Kv line.

#1122 – Milk snake.

#010??? – (WRONG) number appears in Valdosta but does not agree with written locations

#104 – Mud Sunfish.

#861 – Gopher Tortoise.

TURNER COUNTY (No Location to be Field Surveyed)

#35 – Yellow Fly Trap.

#1074 – Hooded Pitcher Plant.

TIFT COUNT (No Location to be Field Surveyed)

#1004 – Hooded Pitcher Plant.

#1092 – Purple Honeycomb Head.

#906 – Hooded Pitcher Plant.