

February 15, 2006 DNR Open House – Pooler, Georgia
Registration

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**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
STRATEGIC PLAN – FEBRUARY 15, 2006
SAVANNAH PUBLIC COMMENT**

**1. Natural and Cultural Resources Management Team Recommendations
(Blue)**

Objective 1: Integrate assessment and management of public and private lands.

Comments: Yes, try to coordinate public and private land management. Many state resources are on private land. How to slow rampant development/conversion of natural areas so as to preserve/conservate state resources including fish, wildlife, clean air, water. Very important problem for the state.

Objective 2: Provide habitat management, restoration and enhancement, and conservation and protection of cultural resources on DNR properties and encourage similar activities on other public and private lands.

Comments: Develop a more active management plan for WMA's to be implemented by both DRN and sportsmen, in order to improve quality of Georgia's wildlife, i.e., more food plots, manage restrictions.

Objective 3: Embrace a holistic, objective-based approach to natural and cultural resource management on DNR lands to protect the resource and allow public access and education.

Comments: WMA should be accessible to hunting and fishing. State parks should be dedicated to recreational activities.

- State parks need to be open to hunting, too.
- State Parks should be further developed for fishing. Ramps and trails should be developed for better access.

Objective 4: Partner with federal, state, regional and local authorities to integrate natural and cultural resources information and techniques into the land use planning process.

Comments: Help with Savannah-Ogeechee linear trail across Chatham County. Develop more bicycle trails, i.e., discuss railroad tracks. Local planning boards need more guidance from DNR.

2. Resource Inventory and Monitoring Team Recommendations (Red)

Objective 1: Coordinate applied research for inventory and monitoring to facilitate science-based decision making.

Comments: None

Objective 2: Provide a comprehensive data management system.

Comments: I support it –go for it!

Objective 3: Provide web-based accessibility to information resources.

Comments: Put everything on the website.

3. Public Education, Outreach and Communications Recommendations (Orange)

Objective 1: Build environmental and cultural resource awareness and responsibility.

Comments: This is a worthy goal. Small groups of citizens and organizations want to get involved in helping the DNR but get frustrated sometimes. (move to public involvement objective 2)

- Public education is key to solving environmental problems
- Provide grants/\$\$ for teachers to participate in activities to which will teach these activities as part of GPS. (GPS = Georgia Performance Standards) See DOE education website for these objectives by grades and context areas.
- Provide speakers to schools to discuss this awareness within the GPS.
- Provide teachers a study guide to parallel resources in Georgia's resources with GPS.

Objective 2: Encourage public involvement in decisions impacting natural and cultural resources.

Comments: Yes, good.

Objective 3: As appropriate, educate DNR associates about the mission, responsibilities and programs of other divisions (internal education).

Comments: Need for a point person or department of DNR, a contact for local NGO's or citizens to seek information or propose ideas for partnerships.

4. Public Access and Use of Natural and Cultural Resources Team Recommendations (Green)

Objective 1: Provide safe and quality recreational opportunities on DNR properties and statewide.

Comments: Will all users of WMA's be subject to usage fees or will funds fall on shoulders of sportsmen with WMA passes?

Speaking of WMA, non-hunters don't know much about them. They are great places for hiking and birding, etc. as well as hunting. Some publicity directed at these users would be helpful.

We need more public access points to waterways.

Objective 2: Foster economic development through nature and cultural-based tourism.

Comments: Ossabaw Island would benefit from partnerships with nature-based tourism—organizations that could provide tours of the island. You could license the operators.

5. Regulatory and Non-Regulatory Integration Team Recommendations (Pink)

Objective 1: Meet current regulatory responsibilities efficiently and effectively.

Comments: EPD needs more funding to accomplish this goal. NPDES permit holders should be required to pay more \$\$ for permits.

- ENFORCE REGULATIONS.
- Lifecycle analysis.
- Put more information (data) about pollution and sources of pollution on the website.

Objective 2: Encourage environmental and cultural stewardship.

Comments: Support!

Objective 3: Promote sustainable business development.

Comments: Local and regional governments should be included in this.

Would like to learn more about P²AD program before commenting but am hoping it is not too lenient.