

RIR Nomination Invitation

The Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission (HOGARC) is a regional planning agency created under Georgia law, and includes the counties of Appling, Bleckley, Candler, Dodge, Emanuel, Evans, Jeff Davis, Johnson, Laurens, Montgomery, Tattnall, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Wayne, Wheeler, and Wilcox in south Georgia. The HOGARC is currently preparing a Regional Resource Plan for the protection and management of identified regionally important natural and cultural resources in accordance with the Georgia Planning Act of 1989, and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Rules (Chapter 110-12-4).

You have been identified as a potential stakeholder or interested party in this Regionally Important Resources nomination and selection process. You are hereby invited to officially nominate any natural or cultural resource within the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Region for potential inclusion in the HOGARC's Regional Resource Plan. Please utilize the attached nomination form for organization of your nomination. Please complete the form in its entirety, and be sure to include a map of any resources you nominate with clearly identified resource boundaries and which also identifies any municipal or county boundary falling within the clearly identified resource boundary. A narrative of the resource's value, vulnerability, regional importance, and the degree to which the nominated resource is threatened or endangered must also be included. Please note that any resource nomination should be submitted **no later than December 31, 2011**.

You should be aware that the DCA rules require that our final Regionally Important Resources Map depict a green infrastructure network which continuously links identified resources to the extent possible. To that end we have consulted important and protected resources information listings, and recommendations from many existing private, state, and federal sources, and have developed a preliminary "Green Infrastructure Network" map. This map is available on our website, www.hogarc.org, and may be of assistance to you in your nomination process. This preliminary "Green Infrastructure Network" map does link most of the existing public and private conservation lands (leased lands are not shown) within the Region through identification of "primary corridors" and "secondary connectors." We believe this concept could guide future conservation and planning efforts by establishing priorities for conservation lands, natural corridors, and travelways linking important areas on a linear basis, particularly river corridors/basins, while also providing critical cross connections to other corridors, basins, and natural areas. As an additional thought, we also believe that this network captures the majority of regionally important historic and archaeological sites, and many of the critical, vital wetlands areas of the Region. What do you think?

Please remember to send us your RIR nomination(s) with complete form, map, and narrative as soon as possible, but **no later than December 31, 2011**. If you simply want to comment on our preliminary "Green Infrastructure Network" map, you may send comments to nail@hogarc.org. Your assistance is appreciated.

Thanks for your important consideration in this process, and for your attention to, and interest in, the future protection and management of important natural and cultural resources in the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Region.