

Federally Endangered and Threatened Plant Species Effects Determination Guidance for Endangered & Threatened Species (EDGES)

Various Counties throughout Georgia

Species Covered by This EDGES:

North Georgia, Blue Ridge

- Endangered: Rock Gnome Lichen (*Gymnoderma lineare*), Green Pitcherplant (*Saracenia oreophila*) and Persistent Trillium (*Trillium persistens*)
- Threatened: Swamp Pink (*Helonias bullata*), Small Whorled Pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*), Monkeyface Orchid (*Platanthera integrilabia*)

South Georgia

- Endangered: Hairy Rattleweed (*Baptisia arachnifera*), Pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*) and Canby's Dropwort (*Oxypolis canbyi*), Harperella (*Ptilimnium nodosum*), American Chaffseed (*Schwalbea americana*), Cooley's Meadowrue (*Thalictrum cooleyi*)

Northwest, Central, and Southwest Georgia

- Endangered: Alabama leather flower (*Clematis socialis*) and Whorled sunflower (*Helianthus verticillatus*)
- Threatened: Large-flowered skullcap (*Scutellaria montana*) and Ocmulgee skullcap (*Scutellaria ocmulgee*)

Floyd County

- Endangered: Alabama leather flower (*Clematis socialis*) and Whorled sunflower (*Helianthus verticillatus*)
 - Threatened: Mohr's Barbara's buttons (*Marshallia morhii*)
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Endangered Species Act Consultation Checklist:

Applicant:

1. IPAC indicates Federally-listed plant species may occur in the project area.
 - a. No.....No effect. Provide IPaC information to the Savannah District with application/PCN.
 - b. Yes.....Go to #2.
2. The Fish and Wildlife Service's Georgia Ecological Services Field Office (GA ES) provided documentation that the project will not impact Federally-listed plants.
 - a. No.....Go to #3.
 - b. Yes.....Provide GA ES project review documentation to the Savannah District with application/PCN.
3. Determination key(s) were completed in IPaC and a consistency letter was auto-generated for the project.
 - a. No..... Provide completed EDGES Applicant Consultation Form and supporting documentation to the Savannah District with 404 application/PCN.
 - b. Yes.....Provide IPaC determination key and consistency letter to the Savannah District with application/PCN.

Savannah District:

4. IPAC indicates the project is within designated Critical Habitat for one or more of these plant species.
 - a. No.....Go to #5.
 - b. Yes.....Contact GA ES to determine if consultation is needed.
5. IPAC indicates federally listed plant species may occur in the project's potential area of effect.
 - a. No..... No effect.
 - b. Yes.....Go to #6.
6. GA ES has reviewed the project and provided information that Federally-listed plant species will not be impacted by the project or the Savannah district has determined that the project will have 'no effect' on listed plants.
 - a. No..... Go to #7.
 - b. Yes.....No effect.
7. The applicant has provided the Savannah district a consistency letter from IPaC indicating the project will have 'no effect' on federally listed plant species or is 'not likely to adversely affect' federally listed species.
 - a. No..... Go to #8.
 - b. Yes.....Verify that the applicant has completed the IPaC determination key properly. No concurrence from GA ES is required. Section 7 consultation complete.
8. The Savannah district completed the required determination key in IPaC and generated a concurrence letter.
 - a. No..... Go to #9.
 - b. Yes.....No concurrence from GA ES required. Section 7 consultation complete.
9. Suitable habitat for one or more federally listed plant species occurs within the project's action area. Please find suitable habitat guidance by species at: <https://georgiabiodiversity.org/portal/table/plants/>
 - a. No.....No effect.
 - b. Yes.....Go to #10.
10. Surveys were conducted when listed plants can be correctly identified. Survey guidance can be found for each species at: <https://georgiabiodiversity.org/portal/table/plants/>
 - a. No.....Contact GA ES to determine if consultation is needed.
 - b. Yes.....Go to #5.
11. Surveys documented presence of listed species.
 - a. No.....NLAA. Consultation complete. GA ES concurrence not needed.
 - b. Yes.....Go to #6.
12. Appropriate avoidance and minimization measures provided on the following page are included with the project and would result in avoidance of all impacts to listed plant species.
 - a. No.....May affect. Please provide relevant information on the following page and continue consultation with GA ES.
 - b. Yes.....NLAA. Consultation complete. GA ES concurrence not needed.

Information to be upload into IPaC or provided to Georgia Ecological Services for Endangered Species Act Review:

All (where applicable):

- Description of the proposed project activities, including any BMPs that will be utilized to avoid impacts to listed plant species.
- Project location overlain on a USGS topographic map and latitude/longitude coordinates (in decimal degrees) for center of project.
- Depiction of suitable habitat(s) aerial imagery of the area.
- Representative images of suitable habitat(s).
- Verification that the project will meet all requirements of the Georgia NPDES General Permits for sediment and erosion, construction stormwater management, and waste disposal.
- A post-construction stormwater management plan that meets at least the current Georgia Blue Book standards.
- A timeline documenting when project activities will be implemented.
- An estimate of total acreage that will be graded at any one time.
- Plans for re-vegetation and maintenance of disturbed habitats adjacent to forests. Plans should focus on use of native, non-invasive species that minimize seed dispersal and encroachment into forested habitats.

Avoidance and Minimization for Plant Species:

- Use orange barrier fence or other measure to protect suitable habitats during construction activities.
- Vegetation removal, mowing and management of plants using mechanical devices for locations within known populations of federally listed plants should be coordinated with Georgia Ecological Services and Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Each Environmentally Sensitive Area shall have a management plan for all activities within the designated area.
- Any restoration, seeding, or replanting within habitats identified will be coordinated with Georgia Ecological Services and Georgia Department of Natural Resources or be in accordance with an approved management plan for the area or species. These activities will use only native seed mixes or plantings that are compatible with the focal species or habitats within the project area.
- Ensure all materials used in project design or construction are free from invasive plants before placement on site.
- All vehicles, machinery, and equipment are clean and free from invasive species before use at a project site.
- All vehicles, machinery, and equipment should be clean and free from plant or animal materials before being transported to a new project site, unless this movement is related to moving fill or other materials to an appropriate offsite disposal location.