

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 24, 2023

The Honorable Randy Moore
Chief
United States Forest Service
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Chief Moore:

I write in support of two Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) projects in Georgia for Fiscal Year 2024: the Georgia Forestry Commission's Dugdown Mountain Corridor Stateline – Georgia project under the Forest Legacy Program (FLP), and the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest submission to acquire priority inholdings.

The Dugdown Mountain Corridor Stateline-Georgia project area spans over 8,000 acres of biodiverse forestland, and its acquisition would build on a multi-state effort to connect the Paulding/Sheffield Forest Wildlife Management Areas in Georgia to the Talladega National Forest in Alabama. Acquisition of these lands would secure high-value timber resources, expand opportunities for public recreation, and protect 34 miles of streams and rivers.

The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest seeks LWCF funding to acquire priority inholdings across multiple watersheds that provide drinking water to millions of people, and which contain endangered species habitat with high conservation value. Securing these tracts would reduce forest fragmentation and streamline federal management costs, while increasing vital recreational opportunities for hunting, fishing, hiking, and camping.

There is significant demand for public use for both projects. However, these areas' proximity to urban centers also increases the risk that they will be converted to non-forest use. Thus, it is urgent that these lands be secured through the LWCF.

I remain committed to protecting Georgia's precious forests for forestry, conservation, and recreational use. Thank you for your consideration of the Dugdown Mountain Corridor Stateline – Georgia and Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest applications for Fiscal Year 2024 LWCF funding. If you need further information, please direct inquiries to Nathan Dadap on my staff at (202) 697-1322 or nathan_dadap@ossoff.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

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AND URBAN AFFAIRS

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