



---

Ed Hunter  
Forest Supervisor  
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests  
1755 Cleveland Highway  
Gainesville, GA 30501

Dear Mr. Hunter,

The GA Council of Trout Unlimited and the 3,500 members in Georgia support the U.S. Forest Service's \$3 Million request for funding for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Land and Water Conservation Fund. If funded, this award will be applied to the acquisition of four tracts, totaling 477 acres, in the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests.

Over the years Trout Unlimited has enjoyed a positive and productive partnership with the USFS which has included: work projects (stream restoration); education (GA Trout Camp – Est 2004); and youth engagement (Kids fishing events). Together we have worked towards accomplishing Trout Unlimited's mission to protect, reconnect, restore, and sustain our cold-water fisheries.

The Forest Service's acquisition of these four tracts will reduce forest fragmentation and improve public access and recreational opportunities in the National Forest, in an area with high biological diversity and resiliency to climate change. Conservation ownership and management of these tracts is also critical to protecting water quality and quantity for downstream users.

We are "all in" for supporting this project, and we appreciate the opportunity to be a part of something positive that will make a difference for all of us.

Yours sincerely,