



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SONNY PERDUE  
GOVERNOR

CHRIS CLARK  
COMMISSIONER

March 26, 2010

Mr. Charlie Breithaupt  
Chairman, Trout Unlimited  
Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited  
194 Kitchins Lane  
Clayton, GA 30525

RE: 469 acres Dawson Forest WMA Tract

Dear Charlie,

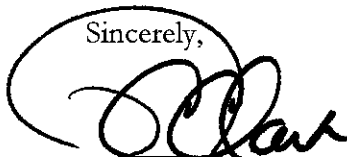
This week, the Board of the Department of Natural Resources voted to acquire this very important property within the Dawson Forest WMA. The early support from Trout Unlimited was such an important part of our ability to complete this project. On behalf of the Board and the Governor, I wanted to say thank you for your support and leadership in this effort.

For over 15 years, this tract held by Temple Inland/Forestar, was a priority for acquisition. It was always considered critical because it ties a major portion of the WMA together, and protects both sides of over 2 miles of Amicalola Creek and its tributaries. The Amicalola is a Priority 1 watershed for protection within the Etowah River basin as determined by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and University of Georgia. It is also designated as a high priority stream in Georgia's Wildlife Action Plan (2005). Amicalola Creek is one of five major population areas important to the survival of the federally endangered Etowah darter along with twenty-seven native fish found within the property boundaries.

This WMA is also very popular with the public for all types of recreation from hiking and canoeing, to hunting and trout fishing. With this approval and subsequent closing, two key sections of the WMA are now connected taking us closer to a potential link to the Chattahoochee National Forest.

Thanks again for your partnership on this important conservation project.

Sincerely,



Chris Clark

Cc: Jenny Lynn Bradley, Chair DNR Board  
Tom Wheeler, Chair Land Acquisition Committee, DNR Board  
Steve Friedman  
Dr. Shelly Lakly, The Nature Conservancy