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Ogeechee Riverkeeper®

Newsletter
July 2024



photo by Jesse Demonbreun-Chaoman - ogeecheeriverkeeper.org

Federally-protected species potentially endangered by water withdrawals from the Ogeechee basin

NOAA experts are concerned about the affect of Hyundai well water withdrawal on downstream wildlife, including the federally-protected Atlantic Sturgeon. Withdrawing large amounts of groundwater from the aquifer could cause temperature and oxygen levels in the Savannah and Ogeechee rivers, causing harm to shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon. Both species are protected under the [U.S. Endangered Species Act](#), NOAA said in its letter to GA EPD.

EPD has released the [draft permits](#) for four wells, set to withdraw 6.6 million gallons per day, from the Floridan aquifer. A [public meeting](#) will be held August 13 in Brooklet, Georgia. [Public comments](#) are

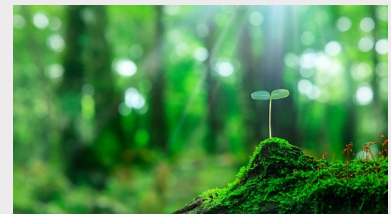
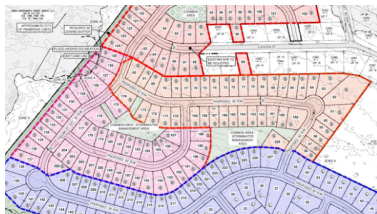
due August 20.

Ogeechee Riverkeeper filed a [letter of intent](#) to sue the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and others for not completing required steps and overlooking water supply concerns during the permitting process of the Hyundai Megasite.

[Article about Sturgeon](#)[GA EPD permits](#)[Megasite documents and data](#)

Legacy gifts

If you are interested in including ORK in your estate plan, the first step is to speak with a lawyer or financial professional who can help you structure your planned gift for maximum investment and estate planning benefit to you and your family.

[Ideas for planned giving](#)[View ORK's official comments](#)

Legal advocacy

As part of Ogeechee Riverkeeper's mission to protect, preserve, and improve the water quality in our basin, ORK makes official comments and joins sign-on letters.

- [Lucky Joe PUD DRI](#)
- [Highway 119 PUD DRI](#)
- [Blue Fern Village PUD DRI](#)

Adopt-A-Stream training

Join ORK and Keep Statesboro-Bulloch Beautiful as we jump into Little Lotts Creek for regular cleanups! You'll help clear the litter boom, then help us sort and analyze what is found. This

information assists us in tracking and preventing litter in the future.



[Little Lotts schedule](#)



[Submit a report](#)

Flooding survey

ORK has developed a survey tool for citizens to report flooding connected to increased development in coastal Georgia counties. The tool will help area organizations track changes in water incursion in the area. These changes include tidal flooding, overflowing canals, non-draining rainwater or stormwater, and more. Citizens can report issues at public, private, residential, or commercial property.

Adopt-A-Landing

ORK will host an Adopt-a-Stream training for chemical and bacterial monitoring at the Mary Kahrs Warnell Forest Education Center in Guyton on August 17. New citizen scientists or those seeking recertification are encouraged to attend. The training is free but attendees should bring their own lunch and water. Pre-registration is required.



[Register now](#)



Limited edition prints

ORK has teamed up with local artist Juliana Smith to create a custom artwork entitled "Blackwater Barons" featuring the plants and wildlife in the Ogeechee River watershed. Juliana designed the piece, carved the linocut by hand, and pulled a limited number of prints. Each 11" x 14" print is signed and numbered by the

[View prints](#)

artist. These prints are **only available** when you make a donation to ORK. When they are gone, they are gone.

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[Little Lotts schedule](#)

Ogeechee Riverkeeper is a 501(c)3 organization and its operations are funded by donations and grant support. Please consider making [a donation](#), becoming a [corporate sponsor](#), or setting up a [planned gift](#).

There are many ways you can help the Ogeechee Riverkeeper protect, preserve and improve the waterways within our basin.

[Donate](#)[Join](#)[Volunteer](#)[Shop](#)

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