

## United States Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service



Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge Route 2 Box 3330 Folkston, Georgia 31537 (912) 496-7366

September 17, 2007

## To: Reviewers of the Draft Environmental Assessment on Submerged Aquatic Plant Management of Banks Lake, Banks Lake NWR, Lakeland, GA

The Fish and Wildlife Service is pleased to provide you with a copy of the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on Submerged Aquatic Plant Management of Banks Lake for your review. The EA outlines the actions proposed by the Service to improve fish habitat by managing the submerged aquatic plants that cover Banks Lake.

The proposal was developed by the Service and addresses five alternatives and their potential impacts on the environment. The Service believes the proposed action will improve the habitat for the fish and birds, and provide improved access to the public for greater enjoyment of the resources.

We will have one public meeting to accept verbal comments. It is scheduled for:

Tuesday, September 25, 2007 - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Lakeland, GA - Courthouse

The beginning of the meeting will be dedicated to understanding the preferred alternative and answering questions. The formal comment period will begin approximately 6:30.

We will accept written comments until October 17, 2007.

The Draft Environmental Assessment can be obtained from Okefenokee NWR (contact information below) or from the refuge's website: http://www.fws.gov/okefenokee/

For more information, contact Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge at Route 2, Box 3330, Folkston, GA 31537 or call 912-496-7366.

Sincerely,

George Constantino Project Leader