



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Banks Lake National Wildlife Refuge November 2007 Planning Update 2: Public Meeting

INVITATION TO A PUBLIC MEETING FOR BANKS LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

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| What? | Public Meeting |
| When? | Thursday, January 24, 2008; 6:00 - 9:00 PM |
| Where? | Courtroom, Lanier County Courthouse, 100 Main Street, Lakeland, Georgia Directions from I-75, Valdosta: Take Exit 16 onto US-221 east. After approximately 15 miles take a left on GA-135 north (Naylor Road). Merge with US 221 north after approximately 9 miles. After 0.5 miles you will reach the US 221 and Main Street (US 129) intersection. The Lanier County Courthouse is across the street. Directions from Folkston: Take US 23 north to Waycross, then take GA 122 west. Continue to follow GA 122 into Lakeland, where it becomes Main Street (approximately 55 miles), the Lanier Courthouse will be on your right. |
| Why? | Spend time with refuge staff! We will begin discussions about the 15-year management plan to be developed for the refuge. |
| Contact: | George Constantino, Refuge Manager, (912) 496-7366 |



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is pleased to announce the initiation of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) process for the Banks Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) located near Lakeland, Georgia. The purpose of this planning effort is to develop a CCP that will provide this refuge with a 15-year management plan for the conservation of fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their related habitats, while also providing opportunities for compatible wildlife dependent recreation. The CCP will cover the 3,559 - acre Banks Lake NWR.

Protected within this refuge are Banks Lake, marshes, hardwood swamps and uplands. In addition to providing a clear statement of the desired future conditions for the refuge, the CCP process is also intended to ensure public involvement in refuge management decisions. The views of individuals, the local community (including landowners and local businesses), public agencies, and interested organizations will play an important role in the CCP process. Over the next year, we will provide periodic planning updates that will inform you of our progress and provide information explaining how you can be involved in the various phases of plan development – from participating in a public meeting to submitting written comments. Public involvement is an essential component of this planning effort and we encourage your participation throughout the process.

To initiate the public participation process, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will host a public meeting at the Lanier County Courthouse in Lakeland, Georgia on January 24, 2008. Come and share your visions for the Banks Lake NWR and tell us how you think they can best be achieved. We hope you can attend. If you are unable to attend, we encourage you to write, e-mail, fax or phone in your comments (see contact info provided below).

Mailing Address:

Banks lake National Wildlife Refuge
Comprehensive Conservation Plan
Route 2, Box 3330
Folkston, GA 31537

Website:

www.fws.gov/southeast/BanksLake

Phone & Fax Numbers:

(912) 496-7366 phone
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**Banks Lake NWR CCP
Route 2, Box 3330
Folkston, GA 31537**

Help us keep our mailing list up-to-date and tell a friend.

If you or someone you know would like to receive future planning updates for this project, please fill in the appropriate information below and return it to us at one of the open house meetings or via mail to Banks Lake NWR CCP, Route 2, Box 3330, Folkston, GA 31537. You will remain on our mailing list unless you request to have your name removed. In order to add you to our mailing list, we will need your written permission. Federal government mailing lists are subject to the Freedom of Information Act of 1974 which requires the release of these lists to the public, upon request.

Signature: _____ Date: _____ check here if you want to be removed from the mailing list

Name: _____ (Please print)

Organization: _____ (optional)

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ (optional)

Would prefer to receive information electronically? Yes No

For questions, additional information or comments, please contact:

Banks Lake NWR CCP

Route 2, Box 3330

Folkston, GA 31537

Phone: (912) 496-7366 Ext. 244 (Planner) or (912) 496-7366 (Refuge)

Fax: (912) 496-3332 (Planner)

Email: okefenokee@fws.gov