

What others are saying about Georgia aster and the Candidate Conservation Agreement

“Georgia Power has a long history of supporting conservation of natural resources, and the natural habitat of many plants and animals across the state is a key part of that effort.

This takes many forms, such as sponsorship of conservation organizations, supporting reforestation, such as the long leaf pine initiative, and protecting various plant and animal species on company land and rights of way across the state. In all, these efforts help make Georgia a better place to live, work and play.”

-Ron Shipman, Vice President for Environmental Affairs, Georgia Power

“The Georgia DOT is in a unique position to help with the conservation of the Georgia Aster because it frequently grows along the edge of openings such as roadway rights-of-way. We will continue to work with Georgia DNR to relocate populations of Georgia aster that could be impacted by road projects; and we will continue to assess our projects’ potential impacts to protected species so that we can avoid, minimize or mitigate whenever there is a potential impact.”

-Keith Golden, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Transportation

“Georgia aster is currently found in nine counties in North Carolina and it is among a number of threatened species the N.C. Plant Conservation Program tracks and conserves. We are happy the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is taking steps to conserve this species before its numbers decline to critical levels. We whole-heartedly support this collaborative approach to monitor, manage and protect this species.”

-David Welch, Plant Conservation Program Administrator, N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

“It takes teamwork to conserve rare plants. DNR’s work documenting Georgia aster populations, restoring habitats and partnering with the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance to expand efforts will dovetail with this critical agreement, which brings together the team needed to conserve the species and its habitat.”

-Dan Forster, Wildlife Resources Division Director, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

“Conserving rare species such as the Georgia aster wildflower requires restoring healthy woodland habitat, and the Forest Service is appreciative and committed to this tremendous partnership.”

-Liz Agpaoa, Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service

“Events like the one today highlight the positive effects of our collaborative efforts, and it is important that we continue to recognize the vulnerability of this species to disturbance and the threats that influence its survival. The National Park Service looks forward to working with all the partners of the Candidate Conservation Agreement to ensure the survival of this species for years to come.”

-Sherri Fields, Deputy Regional Director, National Park Service