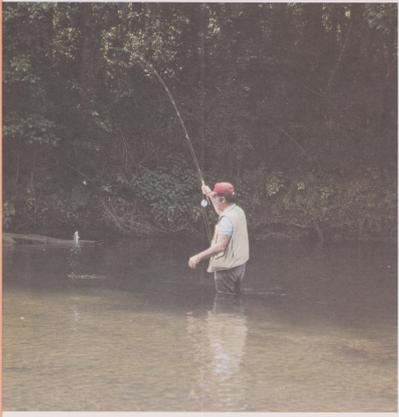


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**WILDLIFE**

The Oconee National Forest provides some of Georgia's best hunting for species such as deer, turkey, quail, squirrel, and ducks. Area lakes and streams offer abundant bass, bream, and crappie. Other wildlife, including raptors and birds, furnish opportunities for photographers and nature lovers. The Forest Service coordinates wildlife activities with the Georgia Game and Fish Commission to insure continuing populations of wildlife. State regulations govern hunting and fishing.



**HUNTING AND FISHING**

The Forest Service has responsibility for habitat management on the Oconee, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Game and Fish Division, regulates the hunting and fishing, and issues appropriate licenses. The Cedar Creek Wildlife Management Area, lying southwest of Easton, is managed under cooperative agreement between the Forest Service and the State agency.



**RANGE**

Certain areas of the Oconee National Forest are available through permits for cattle grazing. The forest understorey contains many species of plants that provide nutritious food for livestock to supplement normal pasturing.



**RULES OF OUTDOOR SAFETY**

- By observing state hunting, fishing and trapping regulations, you help provide fish and game laws and in the future. Remember to use caution and wear a brightly colored shirt or vest during hunting season if you are being chased back to hunting.
- Public facilities are for everyone's use. Report vandalism and damage to the District Ranger's Office.
- Please leave your camp as you would expect to find it.
- Place campfires where you can easily extinguish them. Be sure to put your campfire out when you leave.
- Watch out for poisonous snakes.
- Boil or treat all water taken from open sources before drinking it.

**Insects**

If you are not prepared for them, insects can cause much discomfort and run an otherwise enjoyable hike. Chiggers or redbugs and ticks are prevalent but bite areas easily prevented by applying insect repellent or powdered sulfur around pants legs and ankles. Mosquitoes and yellow flag, present during the spring and summer months can be bothersome. Applying insect repellent to exposed skin areas and by avoiding stagnant bodies and dense woods. Campers can remove an intruder with a mosquito net or peppered tent.

**Snakes**

Georgia has four species of poisonous snakes, rattlesnake, cottonmouth (water moccasin), copperhead, and coral. Snakes defend themselves by striking, but when given the chance, will choose flight rather than aggression. A bite can occur where you sit or place your hands and feet can reduce the possibility of being bitten. However, it would be wise to include a snake bite kit as part of your gear.

**Hunting**

If you come to fish, hunt or trap in the area, be sure to observe the state and local regulations.



**OCONEE National Forest**

**Welcome To The Oconee National Forest**  
 The Oconee, located in the rolling Piedmont of central Georgia, is one of two National Forests in Georgia. It was established in 1859 from lands that had been used as a soil conservation study area. Over 108,000 acres are now contained within this highly productive National Forest. The Oconee National Forest is managed for outdoor recreation, large timber, watershed, and wildlife.



**RECREATION**

The Oconee National Forest offers thousands of people the opportunity to camp, hike, boat, swim, picnic, fish, hunt, and water ski. Lake Sinclair, Oconee River Recreation Area, Hillabee Lake, and the Redlands and Swains Boat Ramp on Lake Oconee provide the settings for much of this recreation activity. Primitive camping is available for hunters and other visitors throughout the entire forest area.



**CULTURAL RESOURCES**

The Oconee National Forest includes many areas of historical and cultural interest. One of these areas is the old village of Soul Shoals, the location of Georgia's first paper mill, cotton gin, and cotton factory. At the end of the Civil War, Soul Shoals was the second largest village in Green County. Now, only building foundations, walls, chimneys, and brickly shavings remain.

**MINERALS**

Three types of minerals are mined on the Oconee National Forest. These are amethyst, feldspar, and granite. The feldspar operation is in existence since 1944, employs approximately 60 people from the local area.

**WATERSHED**

The Oconee National Forest lies in the watersheds of three major Piedmont river systems. These watersheds not only provide recreational activities, but supply much of the drinking water for communities such as Marietta, Georgia. Forest Service employees are also actively involved in protecting these valuable watersheds through erosion control and restoration of the many gullies that once covered the Oconee National Forest.

**IS THE WATER SAFE?**

We hope your visit to our National Forests will be enjoyable and it will be if you avoid hazards encountered in the great outdoors. One hidden hazard you should know about is from drinking untreated "natural" or raw water - an intestinal disorder called GIARDIASIS. One in five is still its effects on you can be quite severe. The disease is caused by a microscopic organism, Giardia lamblia.

**Protect Yourself**

The most effective treatment for killing Giardia is to boil water vigorously for at least 3 to 5 minutes. Longer boiling time is required at higher elevations.

Chemical treatment with iodine or chlorine effectively kills bacterial organisms, but the same treatment will not reliably kill Giardia, a protozoan. Boiling is the only sure treatment for Giardia and all the other microscopic organisms found in raw water.

For short trips, take a supply of treated water from home or other treated domestic sources.

**Protect Others**

Giardia can be readily transmitted between humans and animals. Feces (human or animal waste) can contain the disease, which should be buried 6 inches deep and at least 100 feet away from natural waters.

**WOOD**

The harvest of timber and pulpwood is an important part of the management of the Oconee National Forest. The average harvest of sawlogs from this forest exceeds 16 million board feet a year, enough lumber to build 1,650 homes. Harvesting and processing wood from the Oconee National Forest provides direct livelihood for about 100 area families and an indirect livelihood for about 300 families.



**PACK IT IN - PACK IT OUT!**

**GENERAL REGULATIONS**

Certain rules are enforced on the Oconee National Forest in order to insure your safety and enjoyment. By observing the regulations posted at recreation sites, you and others will be able to fully enjoy all that the National Forests have to offer. If you have questions, or would like maps and brochures, please contact:

Forest Supervisor  
 601 Broad Street  
 Gainesville, GA 30501  
 Phone: (404)539-0541  
 District Ranger  
 345 Kroyon Street  
 Monticello, Georgia 31094  
 Phone: (404)468-2244

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