

Georgia Water Coalition's 2015 "Dirty Dozen"



Each year, the Georgia Water Coalition—a group of more than 200 organizations representing well over a quarter of a million Georgians—compiles a list of the twelve worst offenses to Georgia's water. The annual Dirty Dozen shines a spotlight on threats to Georgia's water resources, exposes polluters and state policies that harm property owners, downstream

communities, fish and wildlife, and many others.

This year, the Georgia Chapter nominated [Cooper Creek Watershed Project](#), a plan that would cut 3,500 acres of trees in the Cooper Creek, Coosa Creek, and Youngcane Creek watersheds in Union County, Georgia. The project was selected along with eleven others, including:

1. Cooper Creek: Timber Harvest To Muddy Mountain Streams
2. Georgia's Stream Buffers: Confusing State Law Leaves Some Streams Without Protection
3. Chattahoochee River: EPD Water Grab Threatens Health of State's Most Critical Water Supply
4. Georgia's Hazardous Waste Sites: Toxic Legacies Pose Public Health Risk
5. Chattahoochee River: Chattahoochee Tubers' Trash Draws Ire of Riverfront Landowners
6. Altamaha River: Rayonier Pulp Mill Fouls Altamaha; State Allows Pollution to Continue
7. Georgia's Coast: Offshore Drilling Poses Threat to Coastal Tourism, Fisheries
8. Coosa River: Power Plant Killing Fish on the Coosa
9. Little Satilla Creek & Penholloway Creek: Strip Mine Threatens Property Values, Water in Wayne County
10. Bear Creek: Reservoir Deal in Newton County a Boondoggle for Taxpayers
11. Withlacoochee River and Floridan Aquifer: Gas Pipeline Invasion in Southwest Georgia Risks Drinking Water
12. Georgia's Groundwater: Legislative Inaction Leaves Well Water At Risk

In addition to listing threats to our water, the report also includes a "Clean #13" which celebrates the decision by the Georgia Department of Transportation to deny a petroleum pipeline company the authority to use eminent domain to build the Palmetto Pipeline, a pipeline running from Augusta through coastal Georgia to Florida.

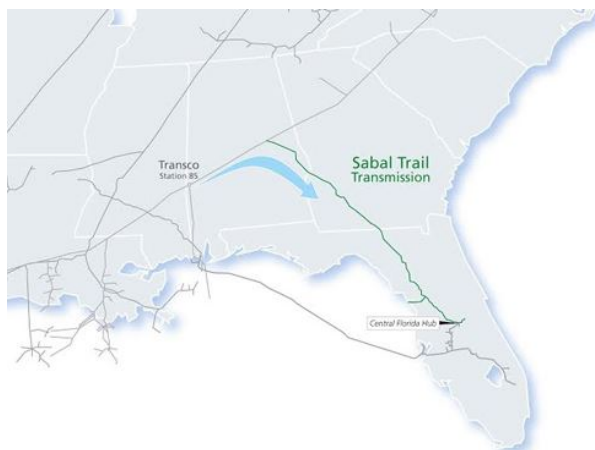
[Click here to read the full 2015 Dirty Dozen report.](#)

[Click here to join the Georgia Water Coalition at its annual partner meeting.](#)

[Click here to take action to stop the massive clear cutting at Cooper Creek.](#)

EPA and Georgia Congressmen submit strong comments against Sabal Trail Pipeline

In our [last issue of Footnotes](#), on October 21, we included an action alert to send comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Sabal Trail natural gas pipeline project, which would include over 500 miles of new natural gas pipeline in Alabama, Georgia, and Florida.



Just a couple of days afterward, Georgia Congressmen Sanford Bishop, John Lewis, Hank Johnson, and David Scott [sent a letter to FERC raising environmental justice and health concerns](#), and demanding alternatives to the proposed pipeline. Raising even more concerns about the project, the EPA [released its own letter citing significant environmental threats](#), including drinking water supplies, sensitive geologic formations, wetlands, conservation areas, environmental justice (EJ) communities, and air quality and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Please join us in thanking these leaders for their comments by clicking to Tweet below!



"Thanks @SanfordBishop, @RepJohnLewis, @RepHankJohnson and @RepDavidScott for your letter to #FERC raising #EJ concerns about #SabalTrail!"



"Thanks @EPASoutheast for your strong comments to #FERC against the #SabalTrail #Pipeline!!"

Testify at EPA Clean Power Plan Public Hearings



This summer, the EPA made climate action history by releasing the final Clean Power Plan. This essential clean air safeguard will reduce carbon emissions from power plants 32% by 2010 nationwide, resulting in fewer respiratory illnesses, missed days of school and work, and premature deaths of Americans who live near dirty fossil plants. Although the plan is final and has been published in the

Federal Register, attacks on the plan are far from over. Two weeks ago, Georgia Attorney General Sam Olens [added Georgia to the list of states suing the EPA](#) over the rule. Unsurprisingly, [Georgia Power has joined the lawsuit](#), too.

Sierrans sent a loud and clear message to CPP opponents by turning out over 700 people for the Atlanta Climate March and EPA hearings last summer. On November 19-20, the EPA will hold another round of CPP hearings on the proposed federal plan. We have a chance to defend the Clean Power Plan and our climate from attack once more.

[Join us in letting the EPA know that Georgians care about clean air, good jobs, and a stable climate.](#)

Sierra Club Meetings

Wildlands & Wildlife Committee, Monday, November 16, 7 p.m.

Contact William Tomlin, wmltom@gmail.com

RAIL Committee, Monday, November 23, 7 p.m.

Contact Brionté McCorkle, brionte.mccorkle@sierraclub.org

Smart Energy Solutions Committee, Monday, December 7, 7 p.m.

Contact Cecilia Harris, ceciliaharris@gmail.com

Don't live in Atlanta? Check out our [Local Groups](#).

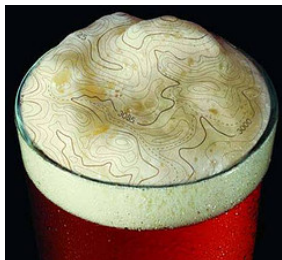
Other Events



November 6-8 - HemlockFest - HemlockFest offers an eclectic mix of rock, blues, folk, bluegrass and world music and family activities in a peaceful and beautiful setting. The eleventh annual HemlockFest offers another amazing array of some of the area's most incredible talents. All proceeds from HemlockFest are applied to the cause of saving the hemlocks and preserving the integrity of the Southern

Appalachian ecosystem. [Tickets here!](#)

November 7 - Sierra Club 101 - You joined the Sierra Club to help protect the environment-now what? Come learn about the Sierra Club and how to get involved in our local efforts. Open to members and non-members alike bring a friend! Please email [Yeou Jih](#) or [visit us on Facebook](#) to register.



November 18 - Sierra Club & Beer - Every other month, Sierra Club and Beer provides a space and great beer for meeting like-minded people, while learning a little something new. This month, we'll be discussing the 2015 United Nations Paris Climate Conference, known as Cop21, which will begin Nov. 30th. We'll also be discussing ways to participate in the Atlanta People's Climate March, held on Sunday, Nov. 29th.

November's SC&B will be held at Six Feet Under West Midtown. Please consider biking or taking transit. Please contact [Yeou Jih](#) or [visit us on Facebook](#) to RSVP so we are sure to bring enough brew for everyone!

November 29 - Atlanta People's Climate March - As the United Nations Paris Climate Conference approaches, it is critical that people everywhere come together to demand protection for our climate. The People's Climate March in Atlanta is intended to be a peaceful, yet forceful demonstration of Atlanta's commitment to the global climate movement. We hope to bring together people of all different backgrounds and interests to show that climate change is a mainstream issue, and that we demand action from our world leaders on climate. [Click here to get involved!](#)



December 10 - Georgia Chapter Holiday Open House - Save the date! Come help us celebrate a great year at the Sierra Club at our 4th Annual Holiday Open House! Meet fellow Sierrans and our coalition partners, view a slideshow of highlights of the year and enjoy some holiday cheer! Our Open House will be from 4:30-8:30 at the Chapter Office. Please email [Yeou Jih](#) or [visit us on Facebook](#) to register.

Looking for more? Check out our [Meetup Group](#) for even more events!



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