



THE STATE OF GEORGIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE GOVERNOR:

WHEREAS: Certain real property in Georgia, because it exhibits unique natural characteristics, special historical significance, or particular recreational value, constitutes a valuable heritage which should be available to all Georgians, now and in the future; and

WHEREAS: Because of Georgia's rapid population growth in recent decades and resulting changes in land use, many such properties have been altered and their value as part of our heritage lost; and

WHEREAS: Big Dukes Pond Natural Area, located in Jenkins County, described more precisely on the map and table attached as Exhibit "A" and Exhibit "B" respectively, which are incorporated herein by reference, is owned by the State of Georgia and under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS: The State purchased said real property to protect its significant natural, recreational and cultural resources, and to allow compatible forms of scientific research, public education, and recreation; and

WHEREAS: The General Assembly recognizes the above needs and the public interest in the state's heritage and, therefore, has enacted the Heritage Trust Act of 1975 (Georgia Laws 1975, p. 962); and

WHEREAS: Said Heritage Trust Act of 1975 provides that any real property owned by the State of Georgia and under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources may be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve after written recommendation by the Board of Natural Resources and approval by the Governor; and

WHEREAS: The Board of Natural Resources has made a written recommendation that Big Dukes Pond Natural Area be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve, and I, as Governor, concur in the Board's desire to protect said real property in

the most effective manner available, in order to confer the best and most important benefit to the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY

ORDERED: That Big Dukes Pond Natural Area be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve for the primary purposes of ecosystem conservation; game, nongame, and forest habitat management; scientific research; hunting, fishing, birding, nature observation, other wildlife-related recreation; conservation education; historic preservation; and the provision of facilities needed to support these and related activities; and that said lands also be used only for recreational activities such as boating, hiking, biking, camping and picnicking, to the extent that these secondary uses can occur without conflicts with the aforementioned primary uses; all under conditions carefully monitored and controlled by the Department of Natural Resources, and subject to the Board of Natural Resources' general supervision and direction in the protection, management, operation and use of said Heritage Preserve.

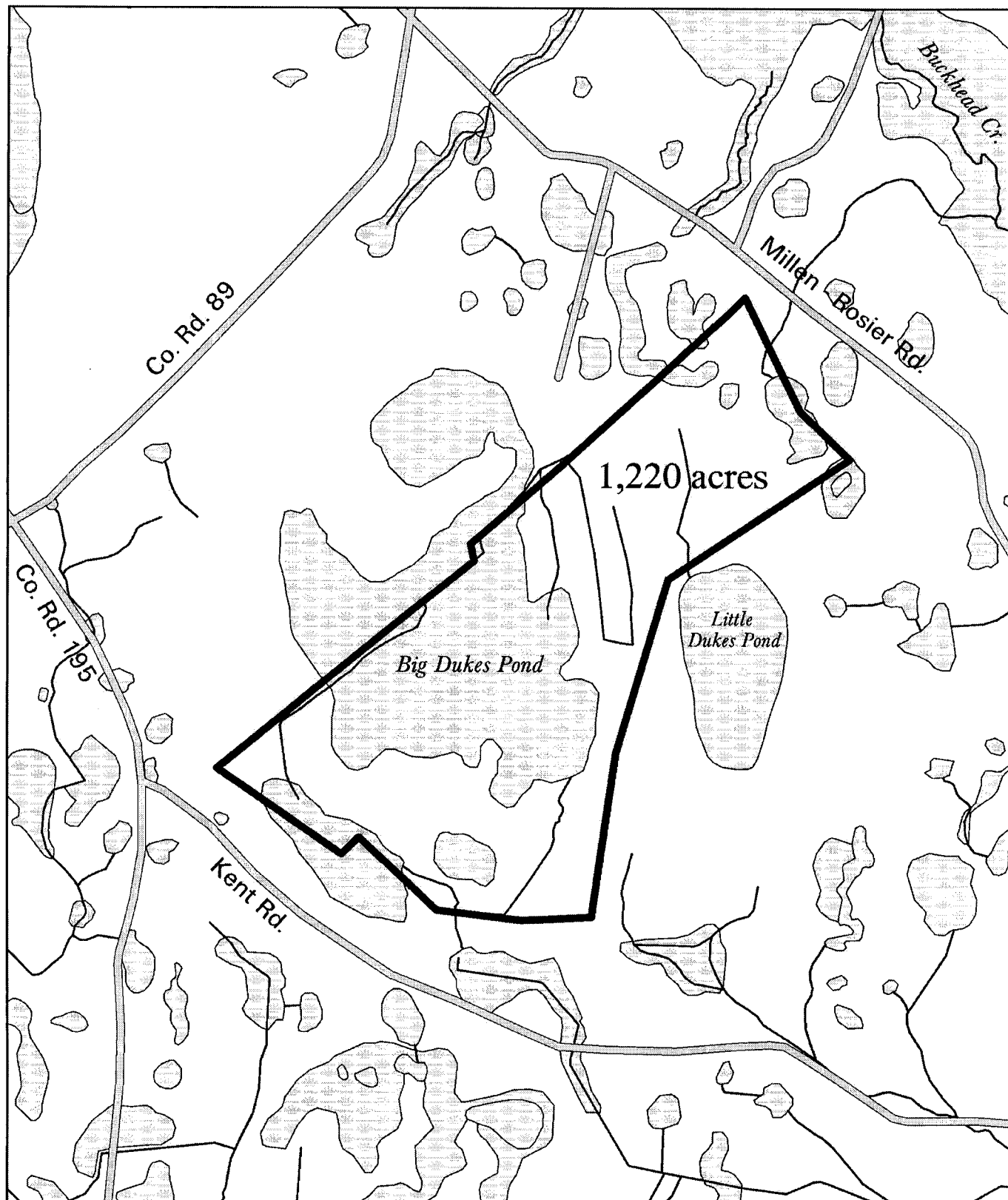
IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That this Executive Order be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Jenkins County and with the State Properties Commission.

This 21 day of January, 2004.



GOVERNOR



BIG DUKES POND NATURAL AREA



Jenkins County

EXHIBIT "B"

BIG DUKES POND NATURAL AREA

**Locations of Deeds and Plats to State-owned Lands
As of September 24, 2003**

County	Conveyor	Deed Type and Interest¹	Acreage²	Deed Book: Page(s)	Plat Book: Page(s)
Jenkins	The Nature Conservancy	Limited Warranty	1,220	4G: 533-536	12: 181-182
Total Acreage			1,220		

1. Unless otherwise stated, deed is warranty deed and interest is fee-simple.

2. Acreage figures are for illustrative purposes only.