



January 30, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Natural Resources

FROM: Walter Rabon, Commissioner 

SUBJECT: Requesting approval via Executive Order to demolish the Stephen C. Foster State Park Suwannee River Visitor Center, Clinch County.

Comments

The Department seeks the Board's authorization to demolish the visitor center (BLLIP #26486) at Stephen C Foster State Park.

For your review, we are enclosing:

- (1) Resolution
- (2) Executive Order

We have presented all available information pertaining to this Agreement to the Chairman, Land Committee, and to the member of the Board within whose district this particular project is located.

Discussion and Conclusion

The Suwannee River Visitor Center has been unoccupied and closed for over a decade. The structure is now extensively deteriorated and occupied by a large colony of bats. The building has been subject to repeated vandalism and structural damage, resulting in unsafe conditions that render it unfit for public use or rehabilitation. Due to these ongoing issues, the facility represents a continuing safety risk and liability to staff, visitors, and the Department.

Structures of historical significance and/or 2,000 square feet and larger require an executive order authorizing their removal. The Office of the State Archaeologist determined the visitor center is not historic, so demolition would not have a negative impact on the Georgia/National Register of Historic Places. The structure is 7,000 square feet, so an executive order is required. Subject to receiving the executive order, the Department will remove the visitor center and all debris from the site.

Recommendation

We recommend adoption of the attached Resolution.

WR: bw

Enclosures (2)