

ENVIRONMENTAL

Land Use

The two properties are located in Catoosa County, Georgia, at Exit 345 on Interstate 75 approximately 3 mile southeast of Ringgold, Georgia.

The tracts are undeveloped and primarily abandoned agricultural or forested. The tracts are currently not utilized for any activity other than hunting or forest. Evidence of timber harvesting in the tracts range from as recently as 10 years to approximately 40 years ago. There are no silviculture activities on the tracts at this time.

Land to the west of the tracts is in active agricultural use. Immediately north of the tracts land use is primarily low-density rural residential and agricultural. Land use to the east of the tracts is primarily forested. To the south of the tracts a small amount of commercial use is occurring along Bandy Lane.

Economic Development

No businesses are located within the tracts. However, a few businesses are located adjacent to, but outside the tracts.

Churches and Institutions

No churches or other institutions are located with the boundaries of the two tracts. However, one church, a cemetery, and a school are located in the vicinity of the property.

Commercial and Residential Relocations

Since there are no businesses or residences within the boundary of the two tracts, no commercial or residential displacements would occur.

Historic Markers and Historic Structures

Georgia's Natural Archaeological and Historic Resources Geographic Information System indicates no listed or eligible properties are within the boundaries of the properties.

Natural Habitat

The sites are located at the boundary of the Chickamauga Valley (west) and the Armuchee Ridges (east) in the Ridge and Valley physiographic province. The tracts are characterized by both old field and subclimax successional Armuchee Ridge Forest types. The areas that have been abandoned for less than 10 years from agricultural uses are

vegetated with a dominance of tall fescue (*Festuca spp.*), broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*), blackberry (*Rubus argutus*), and thistle (*Cirsium discolor*). The forested areas contain naturally occurring stands of trees less than 100 years in age and most trees identified were less than 50 years in age.

Soils

Borings to a depth of 50 feet indicated the soil to be predominately chert and encountered no ground water or underlying bedrock

Waters of the United States, including Wetlands and Streams

An intermittent stream is located within the 100 acre tract and drains into Tiger Creek north of the property. The sand-bedded stream contains several sedimented runs, which give the appearance of an intermittent channel.

Endangered/Threatened Species

No federally listed species or their respective suitable habitats have been identified within the two tracts.

Floodplains

According to the FEMA, a 100 year floodplain, with base flood elevations undetermined, occurs in a portion of the 11 acre tract.

Construction/utilities

The TVA and the City of Dalton Utilities, through local distributor, North Georgia EMC, provide electric power to the area.

Phones lines parallel Hackett Road and Bandy Lane and phone service is provide by Ringgold Telephone.

Water lines are along Highway 41 and Bandy Lane and water service is provided by Dalton Utilities.

Natural gas distribution lines are located at Highway 41 and Highway 2 north of the tracts and at Armstong Road and Highway 41 south of the property.

Sewer to the area is in the 2009 projects for SPLOST funding.