

Georgia's First National Park

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Scenario

- ◆ Given the growing popularity of the national park system in the last decade the Department of the Interior has decided that the National Park System should be more accessible for all United States citizens. It has been decided that every state should have at least 1 National Park to provide more recreational opportunities for Americans. Georgia does not currently have a national park and the department of the Interior has decided to leave it up to us to decide what will become a national park.



Guidelines

- ◆ According to the National Park Service, a national park must be:
- ◆ It must possess a unique natural, cultural, or recreational resource.
- ◆ It must need protection.
- ◆ It must be able to be protected.

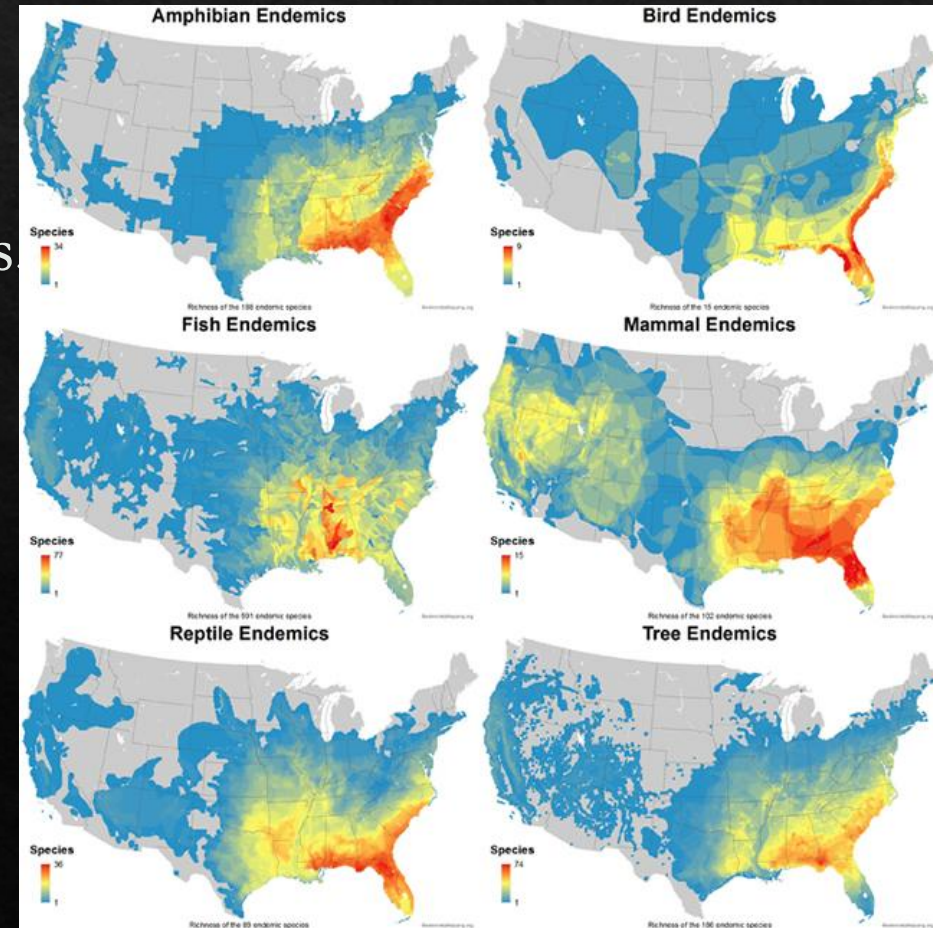
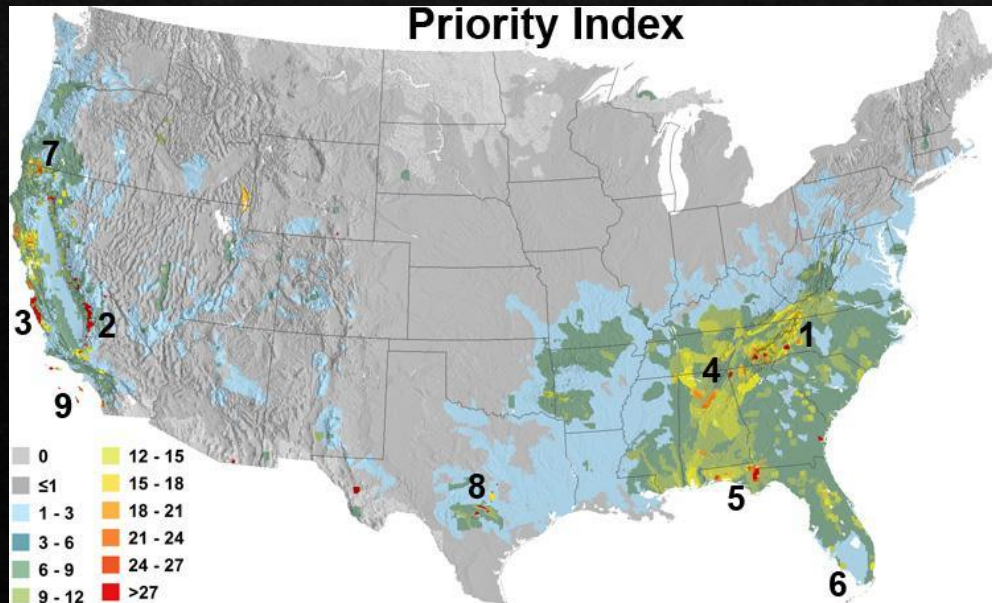
Additional guidelines are that the new national park must be an established park controlled by a federal agency. We cannot designate a brand-new area as a national park (it is not cost effective for this initiative to build a new park from scratch). Accessibility (distance from the populous) should also be a consideration.

Your Task

- ◆ Given the following choices you must make a recommendation for what area should become Georgia's first and only National Park.
- ◆ You should consider the provided information and any additional information you gather.

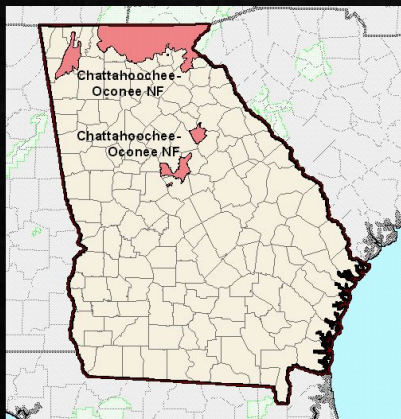
Facts to consider

- ◆ The Southeastern United States has some of the most biodiversity for a temperate area in the world.
- ◆ The nearest national parks are the Great Smokey Mountains in TN/NC and Congaree in SC.
- ◆ Georgia has 2,994 different plant species.
- ◆ Georgia has 4,436 different wildlife species



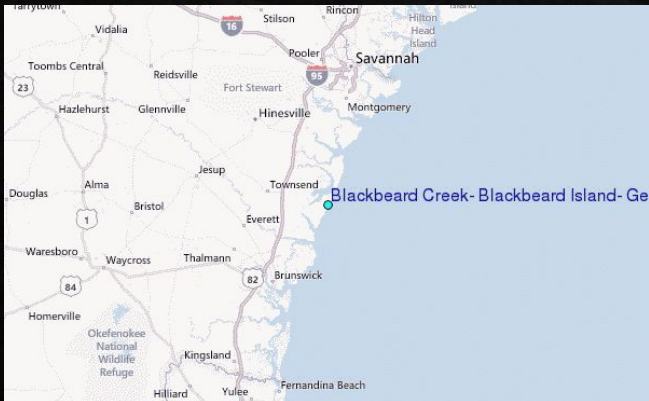
Chattahoochee National Forest

- ◆ Native habitat of 29 threatened and endangered wildlife
- ◆ The region includes some of the most globally significant fish diversity.
- ◆ Recreation opportunities include hiking, camping, biking, fishing, swimming, boating, horseback riding, and hunting
- ◆ Georgia's highest peak, Brasstown Bald, is located within
- ◆ 4,000+ historical sites spanning 10,000 years



Blackbeard National Wildlife Refuge

- ◆ 240 different types of birds, 40 mammals, and undetermined numbers of reptiles, amphibians, and fish
- ◆ Critical beach for loggerhead turtles in the Southeast because of the high density of nests
- ◆ Recreational opportunities include birding, hunting, fishing, hiking, swimming, and boating
- ◆ Winter habitat for migrating birds



Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

- ◇ 200 species of birds, 60 kinds of reptiles, and 400 species of vertebrates inhabit the refuge.
- ◇ 621 different varieties of plants
- ◇ Largest swamp in North America, one of the largest intact freshwater systems in the world.
- ◇ Recreational activities include camping and canoeing



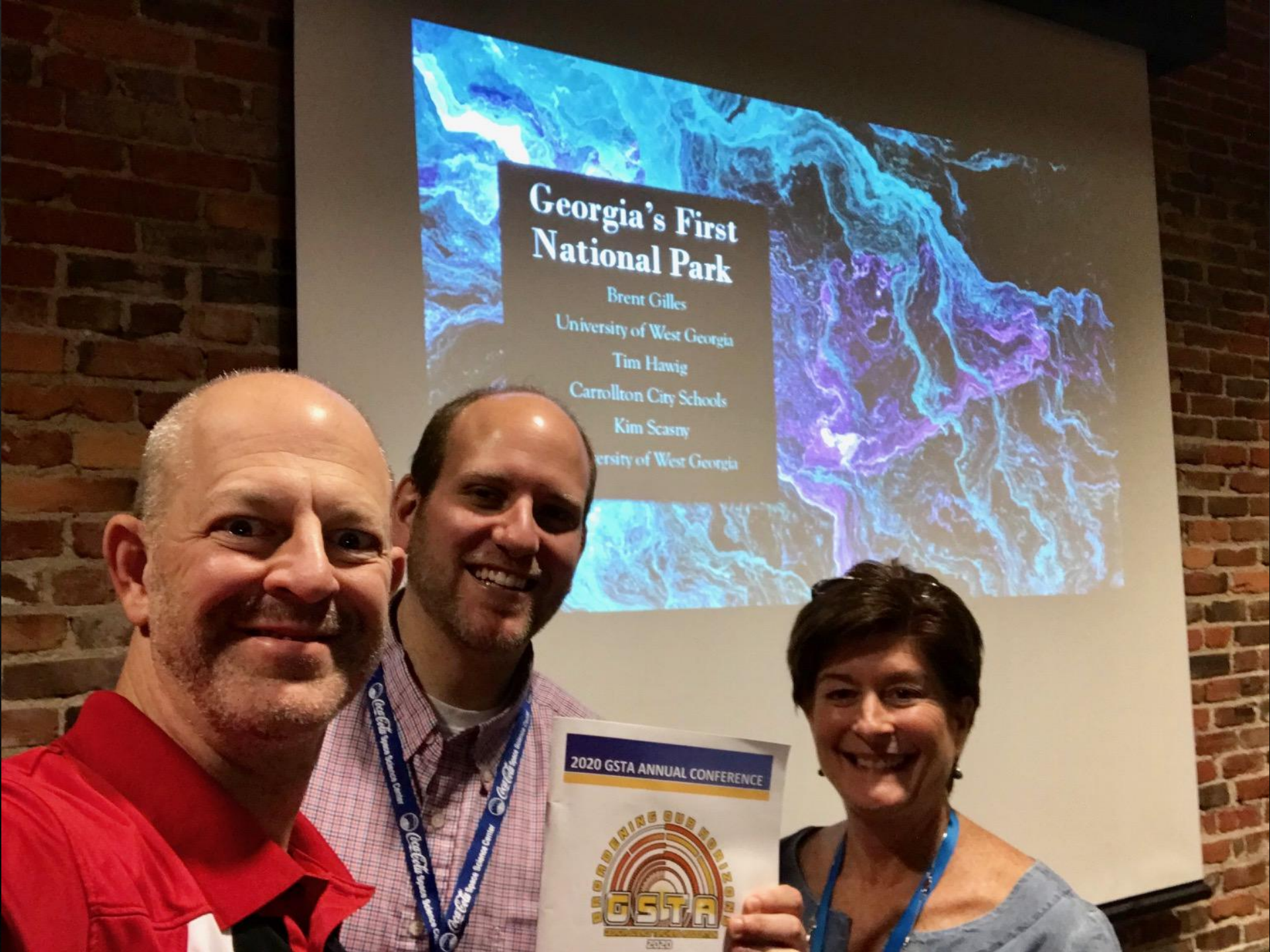
Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge

- ◆ There are 200 species of birds, 45 mammals, 14 amphibians, 41 reptiles, 85 species of butterflies, and many species of fish.
- ◆ Plant diversity includes many species of trees, shrubs, flowers, etc... exist around the area's streams, upland depression swamp, xeric pine woodlands, oak woodlands and savannas, and oak-hickory-pine forest.
- ◆ 125 historic properties have been identified dating back to as early as the pre-Columbian lithic (15th century).
- ◆ Hiking, fishing, and wildlife observation are main activities



Argument Construction

- ◆ Claim: Which site should be a national park.
- ◆ Evidence: What data that was given and collected (by you) supports your claim.
- ◆ Justification: How the evidence fits the definition of a national park and other considerations. **Why other choices would not be appropriate.**



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