INTEGRATING WETLAND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES INTO AGRICULTURE: A UGA DEMONSTRATION PROJECT Darold Batzer¹, Joseph McHugh¹, C. Rhett Jackson³, Dennis Hancock², Mark Risse², and Susan Wilde³

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Showing how wetland ecosystem services can be profitably integrated into agricultural practice would be a powerful way to induce farmers to conserve wetland habitats. We have developed a project to demonstrate this concept at the Iron Horse research farm, UGA, a place where croplands interact with an extensive complex of floodplain wetlands. In terms of research, we intend to: 1) Establish hydrologic and ecological linkages between croplands and wetlands; and 2) Show how agricultural floodplain wetlands can be managed to simultaneously maintain wetland ecosystem services and cropland productivity. In terms of public outreach, we intend to: 1) Develop the farm as resource for education on sustainable agriculture and wetland ecology; 2) Conduct outreach events for public school teachers, farmers, and students. This effort is being funding by the USEPA, and the research phase of the project will continue for the next three years.

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