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## Appling County High School teams place 1st and 3rd in regional environmental competition

Both teams qualify for state contest in April and chance to travel to Montana

**ATHENS, Ga.** – Appling County High School Team 1 placed first and Team 2 placed third in an annual regional contest that tests high school students' knowledge of environmental issues.

The Georgia Envirothon South Competition was held on March 13 at Little Ocmulgee State Park near McRae, Ga.

The successful results mean that both teams have qualified for the state competition to be held in Gainesville, Ga., on April 19 that will decide who represents Georgia in the national Envirothon scheduled for Bozeman, Montana, in August.

"Envirothon is North America's premier educational competition for high school students on the environment," explained Georgia Envirothon Chair Jennifer Standridge. "Contests offer both in-class curriculum and hands-on field experiences focused around ecology, natural resource management, and current environmental issues."

Appling Team 1 placed first in all five contests that test participants' knowledge of aquatics, forestry, soils, rangeland management and wildlife. Teams are tested using a variety of question formats including narrative responses, true/false, fill in the blank, multiple choice, and matching.

For each topic, teams are given a brief presentation by a coordinator on ecosystem issues important to that topic and then given a test. Teams have 45 minutes to complete each of the five topics.

Students spend an entire year studying environmental issues and preparing for this annual contest, which includes private and public high schools from around Georgia.

Georgia Envirothon is sponsored by a number of environmental groups including the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the Georgia Association of Conservation District Supervisors and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Information on the upcoming competitions for Georgia Envirothon can be found at http://www.georgiaenvirothon.org/ or by contacting the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission at 706-552-4470.