HOW HUMANS CONTRIBUTED TO THE FORMATION OF PROVIDENCE CANYON

La'Stacia S. Reese, Department of Physics, Astronomy, Geosciences, and Engineering Studies

Faculty Sponsor: Michael G. Noll, Department of Physics, Astronomy, Geosciences, and Engineering Studies

Providence Canyon is a network of gorges located in southwest Georgia which were created by the rapid erosion of numerous soil layers. The first settlers in the 1820s practiced poor farming and soil management techniques that began the erosional processes that led to its formation. This study will examine agricultural aspects and environmental consequences of human activity in the area. The main focus will be on existing farming communities in the 1800's, the different farming techniques practiced by the settlers, types of soil found in the region, and a discussion of what the future might hold in store for Georgia's "Little Grand Canyon."