

## Brandt, Joanne U SAM

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**Subject:** Jim Woodruff Dam Interim Operations Plan, Drought Provision Workshop, 13 December 2006, Columbus, GA (UNCLASSIFIED)

**Importance:** High

Classification: **UNCLASSIFIED**

Caveats: NONE

On 5 September 2006, US Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) issued a Biological Opinion to the US Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, regarding operations at Jim Woodruff Dam in support of endangered and threatened species and critical habitat on the Apalachicola River. In the Biological Opinion USFWS specified as a reasonable and prudent measure (RPM 3) that the Mobile District develop modifications to the IOP that provide a higher minimum flow to the Apalachicola River when reservoir storage and hydrological conditions permit. A term and condition of the Biological Opinion therefore requires that:

*The Corps, with Service concurrence, shall initiate by January 30, 2007, IOP drought provisions that identify the reservoir, climatic, hydrologic, and/or listed species conditions that would allow supporting a higher minimum flow in the Apalachicola River, and that identify recommended water management measures to be implemented when conditions reach the identified drought trigger point(s).*

Mobile District has been consulting with the USFWS to identify possible elements of a drought provision, and has initiated some preliminary modeling for a conceptual drought provision. The Corps and USFWS have agreed to jointly host a one-day workshop on 13 December in order to share the conceptual drought provision elements currently being considered, and preliminary modeling results. The workshop will be structured similar to the previous technical modeling workshops held during the Section 7 consultation process; i.e., the Corps and USFWS will present background information and preliminary modeling results; other stakeholders will be allowed to present their concepts and/or modeling results; and there will be opportunity for technical discussion of the elements being considered.

The workshop will be held on **Wednesday, 13 December, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. EST, at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center (Room 103), 801 Front Street, Columbus, GA (Telephone: 706-327-4522).**

A copy of the final Biological Opinion is posted on the Mobile District website at <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/ACF.htm>.

If you have any questions regarding the workshop, please feel free to contact me.

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Classification: **UNCLASSIFIED**

Caveats: NONE