



## **Background And Approach**

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### **EIS PURPOSE AND NEED**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and cooperating Federal agencies have completed two draft Environmental Impact Statements (EISs), one for each basin. The EISs evaluate potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of a wide range of potential allocation formulas that may result from the negotiations among the States under the ACT and ACF River Basin Compacts.

Pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Final EISs will form a basis for the Federal Commissioners' decisions on the allocation formulas to be approved by the State Commissioners.

The Federal Commissioners' concurrence/nonconcurrence with the water allocation formulas is required within 255 days of the States' agreement on the formula for each basin.



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### INVOLVED FEDERAL AGENCIES

#### LEAD AGENCY

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

#### COOPERATING AGENCIES

Environmental Protection Agency

Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Geological Survey

National Park Service

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Forest Service

National Ocean Service

National Marine Fisheries Service

Maritime Administration

Southeastern Power Administration

#### TOPIC/RESOURCE AREA

Hydrologic and water quality modeling; economic analyses

Nonpoint source loadings and water quality impacts

Protected species, wetlands, and aquatic resources

Groundwater, geological resources

Recreation impacts

Economic impacts on agriculture

National Forest lands

Apalachicola Bay and estuarine resources

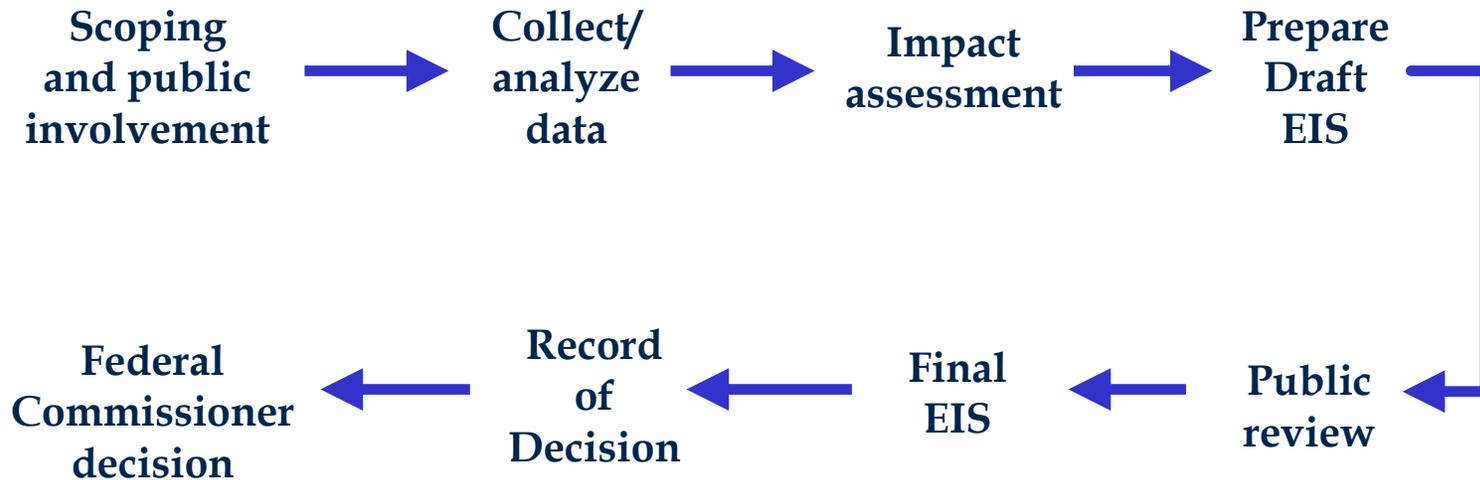
Essential fish habitat in estuarine areas

Navigation and shipping industry

Hydropower generation



## The NEPA process requires Federal agencies to follow a well-defined series of steps in preparation of an EIS





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### PROGRAMMATIC EIS FRAMEWORK

- Because the water allocation formula is not yet available to evaluate, a programmatic evaluation framework has been developed
- A range of alternative flow and reservoir conditions has been evaluated in the Draft EISs based on the results of hydrologic modeling
- The model outputs for alternative flows do not represent an actual operational scenario, but encompass the range of potential river flow and lake elevation conditions
- Impact analyses are focused on water availability, especially during low flow periods, and trends that differ from no action for each of the potentially affected resources
- The range of flow and reservoir conditions evaluated in the Draft EISs are expected to bracket the flows and lake elevations associated with the negotiated water allocation formulas



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### **PROGRAMMATIC EVALUATION FRAMEWORK (cont.)**

- The Final EISs will address the range of potential impacts associated with the final water allocation formulas
- Follow-on (tiered) Environmental Assessments (EAs) or EISs may be required prior to implementation of:
  - Reallocation of water from Corps reservoirs
  - Alternative water control plans
  - Changes in other Federal water resource management programs



## Implementation Phase

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- Federal agencies will exercise their discretion to implement the approved allocation formula to the maximum extent practicable, consistent with Federal law
  - If within the range of current operations, certain actions can be implemented immediately
  - Certain changes in operations must meet additional requirements of Federal law before they can be implemented



## Implementation Phase (cont.)

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- Water Supply Reallocation Studies
- Section 216 Studies for Project Modifications
- Flood Control Studies
- Revise Reservoir Water Control Plans and Manuals
- Drought Management Plans
- Additional Reservoirs?



## Implementation Phase (cont.)

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- Follow-on NEPA Documentation
- Mitigation Studies
- Development of Monitoring Program



## Programmatic Approach

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- Provides framework for future allocation decisions
  - Interim allocation formulas
  - Phased implementation of allocation formulas
  - Future modifications to the allocation formulas
  
- Supplemental NEPA documents will be tiered off the Programmatic EIS
  - EAs for minor actions
  - Supplemental EISs to address significant or basinwide effects
  - Public involvement integrated into NEPA process



# Water Allocation ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Mobile District

## **Other NEPA Actions in the ACT and ACF Basins (Ongoing or Future Actions)**

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- Interim Water Supply Contracts at Corps Reservoir Projects
- Lakeshore Management Plans at Corps Reservoirs
- Update/Revision of Existing Water Control Plans at Corps Reservoir Projects
- FERC Relicensing of Alabama Power Company and Georgia Power Company Projects
- Regulatory Permits for Local and Regional Water Supply Reservoirs (subject to evaluation and permitting under requirements of Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act)