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Lake Lanier gains 37 billion gallons of Flood Waters

Mobile, Ala. – Because of significant rainfall and flooding in the metro Atlanta area, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers implemented flood control operations in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee- Flint (ACF) River Basin. Portions of Northern Georgia had received up to several feet of rain over three days causing the Chattahoochee River to rise rapidly.

“The Corps curtailed its operations on September 19, and only minimal releases of approximately 670 cubic feet per second (cfs) have been released through the small house unit have continued,” said Lisa Coghlan, Public Affairs Officer.

“To reduce flooding downstream, only the small unit is being run at Buford. The small unit generates power for the dam, the project office, maintenance areas and recreational facilities around the lake and assisted in maintaining viable conditions for essential habitat below the dam,” said Coghlan.

“Operating at 670 cfs from the small unit equates to less than one inch at the Vinings gage, located 30 miles south of the Buford Dam. Releasing from the small unit did not contribute to the localized flooding in the metro Atlanta area.

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2-2-2-2 Lake Lanier gains 37 billion gallons of Flood Waters

By limiting releases to just that of the small unit, 37 billion gallons of flood waters were retained at Lanier. This is the equivalent of filling the Georgia Dome more than 170 times,” said Coghlan.

The flow out of large dams is rarely halted completely due to adverse impacts on river environments.

The Corps has been actively engaged with local, city and state officials, Emergency Managers and others to relay information in a timely and accurate manner. The ACF is managed as a system and the flood waters are also being managed through the remaining Corps projects: West Point Dam, Walter F. George Dam, and Jim Woodruff Dam.

The Corps continues to monitor the situation and will make necessary changes to water releases to ensure minimal impacts both upstream and downstream.

The current elevation at Lake Lanier is 1067.97 feet above mean sea level (msl). Lanier has risen over 3 feet in the past few days and the lake is expected to peak at 1068.5 msl over the upcoming weekend.