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Mobile District

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Buford Dam and West Point Dam reduced Flood Damages

Mobile, Ala. –, The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District implemented flood control operations at Buford Dam and West Point Dam, on Sept. 19, due to significant rainfall and flooding in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River (ACF) Basin. Buford Dam and West Point Dam operated for one of their primary missions -- flood control. The preliminary estimated damages prevented by having the dams were: Buford Dam \$124 million and West Point Dam \$350,000.

“At the Chattahoochee River at Norcross located 18 river miles downstream of Buford Dam, the dam reduced flood levels by 7 ½- feet below that which would have occurred without the dam,” said Lisa Coghlan, Public Affairs Officer.

“At the Chattahoochee River at the Vinings gage, Buford Dam reduced flood levels by nearly four-feet (3.9 feet). This gage is just upstream of the Paces Ferry Bridge, and is 45 river miles downstream of Buford Dam, and 2 ½ miles upstream of Peachtree Creek,” said Coghlan.

“Immediately downstream from the West Point Dam, flood levels crested 1 ¾-feet lower than they would have without the dam in place. West Point has limited flood storage capacity, particularly this time of year prior to the normal winter drawdown, and only has the ability to partially mitigate flood impacts,

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not control floods,” said Coghlan.

“It is important to note, that no dam provides full protection from flooding: even the best flood structure cannot completely eliminate the risk of flooding. Flood risk management is a shared responsibility and partnership among, federal, state, local agencies and landowners,” said Coghlan.

Through a coordinated effort among numerous Mobile Corps District offices, the flood waters are still being managed throughout the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin. The Corps continues to manage the flood waters throughout the ACF basin, and the waters are being released and controlled through the remaining Corps projects downstream of Buford Dam, West Point Dam, Walter F. George Dam, and Jim Woodruff Dam.