In October 2012, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District, reopened public scoping for preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) regarding development and implementation of an updated Master Water Control Manual for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin (Master Manual) in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia.

Public scoping was reopened to account for a June 28, 2011 Decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit which concluded that water supply is an authorized purpose for Lake Lanier. To account for the Court’s ruling, USACE is revising the scope of the EIS and water control manual updates.

The comments received during the scoping periods in 2008, 2009, and 2012 resulted in 3,621 comments from 965 individuals, organizations, and agencies. Comments were submitted to USACE through all available options—U.S. Postal Service, email, Web site, fax, verbal transcription, and in person at one of the October 2008 scoping meetings.

Comments received were categorized into 12 comment areas: Water Management Recommendations; Socioeconomics and Recreation; Biological Resources; Drought Operations; Water Quality; Water Supply; National Environmental Policy Act; Data, Studies, and Analytical Tools; Navigation; Hydropower; Flood Risk Management; and Other Resources. Some of the categories were further divided into subcategories to present the stakeholders’ issues and recommendations more clearly.

Comments received in 2012 have been incorporated into the scoping report. To download the full scoping report, please visit the project Web site at www.sam.usace.army.mil.

A Notice of Availability (NOA) will be published in the Federal Register when the Draft EIS is available for public review (currently anticipated in summer 2015). Public meetings will also be held following publication of the NOA to solicit comments on the Draft EIS. Each comment and the corresponding response will be incorporated into the EIS. The Final EIS and Record of Decision are currently anticipated for publication in 2016.

### Comments Categorized by Segment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number of Comments</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water Management Recommendations</td>
<td>1,228</td>
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<td>Socioeconomics and Recreation</td>
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<td>Biological Resources</td>
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<td>Drought Operations</td>
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<td>Water Quality</td>
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<td>National Environmental Policy Act</td>
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<td>Water Supply</td>
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<td>Data, Studies, and Analytical Tools</td>
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<td>Other Resources</td>
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<td>Navigation</td>
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<td>Hydropower</td>
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<td>Flood Risk Management</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,621</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Expected Timeline for the ACF Master Water Control Manual and EIS:

- October–January 2013  
  EIS Scoping Period

- Spring 2013–Summer 2014  
  Alternative Development and Impact Analysis

- Summer 2014–Summer 2015  
  Technical Review

- Summer 2015  
  Draft EIS Filed with EPA/Public Comment Period

- Winter 2016  
  Final EIS Filed with EPA/Public Comment Period

- Spring 2016  
  Record of Decision (ROD Signed)

- Summer–Fall 2016  
  Implement Updated Master WCM

For the most recent updates on the project, visit [www.sam.usace.army.mil](http://www.sam.usace.army.mil).

Comments Categorized by Segment

- Water Management Recommendations: 34%
- Socioeconomics and Recreation: 19%
- Biological Resources: 16%
- Drought Operations: 6%
- Water Quality: 5%
- Water Supply: 4%
- Other Resources: 2%
- Navigation: 1%
- Hydropower: 1%
- Flood Control: 2%
- National Environmental Policy Act: 7%
- Data, Studies & Analytical Tools: 3%