DROUGHT OPERATIONS 2
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DROUGHT OPERATIONS

DROUGHT MANAGEMENT AND RELATED ISSUES

Management Triggers (Drought Operations)

Comment ID: 11
Author Name: Tom & Patti Montijo
Organization:

Photo taken from our dock on 10/28/07, (IMG 317.jpg) Thompson Creek Area. Please consider changing the goal for full pool to Memorial Day. Specific Regulation for drought conditions with a realistic trigger.

Comment ID: 17
Author Name: Marguerite Daniel
Organization: Athens Boat Club, Inc.

3. Better management triggers should be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 40
Author Name: Paul M. Flood
Organization:

5. The Corps of Engineers should develop guidelines and put into place
Management 'triggers' for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought which insures that the economy and water levels of the Lake Lanier area are not more adversely impacted than other areas within the ACF

Comment ID: 42
Author Name: Tom Oliver
Organization: Hall County Government Board of Commissioners

3. Management triggers should be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawal during times of drought. The Corps should limit withdrawals during a drought from Lake Lanier to be no greater than a release which is necessary to provide a flow of 750 cubic feet per second past the sewage discharge from the city of Atlanta into the Chattahoochee River;

Comment ID: 52
Author Name: V.M. Perry, Jr.
Organization: Lake Lanier Association

Institute Lake Lanier-Specific Management Triggers the Revised Interim Operating Plan (“RIOP”) currently in place contains no Lake Lanier-specific trigger points for storing or releasing water. It is possible for the composite storage level of all reservoirs to be in Zone 3 or even higher while Lanier is still in Zone 4 due to its much slower refill rate. Downstream reservoirs not only naturally refill much more rapidly than Lanier, they do so even more quickly when rainfall is greater in the ACF watershed south of Buford Dam than north of it. This makes it not only possible but highly probable that the other ACF reservoirs will recover fully while Lanier is still as low as Zone 4, as has happened through much of 2008. The RIOP provides for specialized management of West Point Lake and Lake Walter F. George by allowing temporary storage above the winter pool rule curve under certain conditions. The new WCP should incorporate specialized provisions for managing Lake Lanier that reflect its distinctive characteristics and management needs. Without them, Lake Lanier is destined to be disproportionately impacted by draw-downs for downstream management, without an ability to remain near full pool or to refill. We request that the new WCP include provisions that will allow the retention of basin inflow above Buford Dam to the maximum extent possible under all conditions. The purpose of this is to allow Lake Lanier to realize the benefits intended for it under the original authorizing legislation by remaining at or near full pool whenever possible. This can best be accomplished with Lake Lanier-specific management triggers that are independent of the triggers for the entire ACF system. We request that the new WCP incorporate Lake Lanier-specific management

triggers that will maximize water storage in Lake Lanier when it falls below Zone 1 and allow the Corps to store a higher percentage of basin inflow above Buford Dam when composite storage is in Zones 2, 3, and 4. We recognize that Lanier-specific triggers would need to be coordinated with triggers for the rest of the system, but the triggers in the RIOP clearly fail to accommodate Lake Lanier's unique disproportion of storage volume and drainage area in comparison to the other reservoirs in the ACF.

Comment ID: 65
Author Name: Vicky Ginn
Organization:

We are in favor of the following measures to increase the level of water in Lake Lanier: During the rainy season, the Corps should allow Lake Lanier to reach full pool no later than June 1.
--
We are in favor of the following measures to increase the level of water in Lake Lanier: During the rainy season, the Corps should allow Lake Lanier to reach full pool no later than June 1.
--
Lake Lanier should not be drawn down for mussels and other endangered species in the Apalachicola River.
--
Management prompts must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 79
Author Name: James Griffin
Organization:

- Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 80
Author Name: Greg and Mary Drummer
Organization:

-management triggers to be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 397
Author Name: Cile Gierhahn
Organization: Lakefront Homeowner

Management triggers must be in place for LL withdrawals during times of drought

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Comment ID: 413
Author Name: Perry Darsey
Organization:

3. Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 414
Author Name: Pat Darsey
Organization:

3. Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 416
Author Name: Robert Busser
Organization:

3. Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 417
Author Name: Mary Thompson
Organization: Mary Thompson Appraisals

3. Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 418
Author Name: Mary Thompson
Organization: Mary Thompson Appraisals

3. Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought

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Comment ID: 419
Author Name: Jayne Olderman
Organization:

3. Management triggers should be in place for Lake Lanier's withdrawals regarding:
A. drought conditions
B. water quality
C. water supply

Comment ID: 420
Author Name: Allen Gresham
Organization:

3. Management triggers must be in place for lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 421
Author Name: Pat Darsey
Organization:

3. Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 452
Author Name: James & Shannon Lince
Organization:

Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 460
Author Name: Peter Collins
Organization:

*Management triggers must be in place during a drought - why would we send all the water to the ocean instead of conserving & storing as must H20 as possible?

Comment ID: 472
Author Name: Mary Kirves
Organization: Lake Property Owner

Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 474
Author Name: Mandy C. Harris
Organization:

Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 475
Author Name: Richard N. Harris
Organization:

Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 476
Author Name: Heather Jones
Organization:

Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 477
Author Name: Crow Hunter
Organization:

Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 478
Author Name: Matt Johnston
Organization:

Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 479
Author Name: Stephanie Nakamura
Organization:

Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 493
Author Name: Thomas Vivelo
Organization:

2. We must have in place water management tools and triggers in place to manage drought conditions before the lake gets to critical levels. Those tools should allow conservation of drinking water to be put ahead of all other demands.

Comment ID: 507
Author Name: Trace Erge
Organization:

Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 508
Author Name: Robert Tate
Organization:

Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 510
Author Name: Michael Muenchen
Organization:

Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 511
Author Name: John Muenchen
Organization:

Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought

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Comment ID: 517
Author Name: Scott Carper
Organization:

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3. Better and consistent management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 518
Author Name: Raymond Smith
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 519
Author Name: Brad Jordan
Organization:

Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought,

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Comment ID: 521
Author Name: John O'Donnell
Organization:

Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 522
Author Name: Tim Muenchen
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 524
Author Name: Palmer
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought

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Comment ID: 527
Author Name: Terry Simpson
Organization:

More sensitive management triggers during drought conditions

Comment ID: 528
Author Name:
Organization: Resident

That management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 529
Author Name: Tim Altman
Organization: Timberidge on Lanier Condominium Association

3) Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 530
Author Name: Lisa H. Howell
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 533
Author Name: Jeanne Beachler
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 534
Author Name: Ebby Hamby
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 535
Author Name: Stacy Wade
Organization: LLA

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 536
Author Name: Ellen Whitaker
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 539
Author Name: Ken Fields
Organization:

Triggers MUST be in place for withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 540
Author Name: Charlie Nugent
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of
Drought;

Comment ID: 544
Author Name: Raymond F. Egan
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 551
Author Name:
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 552
Author Name: Leo and Marie Anne Van de Vall
Organization:

-Please, have management triggers in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of
drought;

Comment ID: 556
Author Name: Guy Caldwell
Organization: Possible NOW

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during
Times of drought;

Comment ID: 557
Author Name: Terry Donnenwirth
Organization:

Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 559

Author Name: Roy Beavers
Organization:

Specific management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought to minimize the effect on the entire area.

Comment ID: 560
Author Name:
Organization: Windsong Sailing Academy

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought or low water levels;

Comment ID: 561
Author Name: Jay Martin
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 562
Author Name:
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 564
Author Name: S.M. Chassner
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 595
Author Name: Susan Banasik
Organization:

Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought

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Comment ID: 596
Author Name: Dale Smart
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 599
Author Name: Don Turner
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 601
Author Name: James Inglis
Organization: none

3. Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought

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Comment ID: 602
Author Name: Mack Butler
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 610
Author Name: Marvin Fisher
Organization:

Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 611
Author Name: Bob Kaufman
Organization: Harbour Point Dock Chairman

- Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 612
Author Name:
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 618
Author Name: Barry Smith
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 626
Author Name: Carl & Rae-Lynne Swigart
Organization:

3. Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 627
Author Name: Chad Hargett
Organization:

Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought

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Comment ID: 630
Author Name: Art McGovern
Organization:

3. Management triggers should be in place for Lake Lanier's withdrawals regarding:
A. drought conditions
B. water quality requirements
C. water supply requirements

Comment ID: 632
Author Name: Tony
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 648
Author Name: Trey
Organization: Wakeboarder

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during
Times of drought;

Comment ID: 649
Author Name: Trey
Organization: Wakeboarder

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during
Times of drought;

Comment ID: 651
Author Name: Bert Sykes

Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 653
Author Name: Bruce Margol
Organization:

Triggers must be put in place by management during drought times to limit withdrawals.
The recent situation has brought to light the lack of timely management of our resources.

Comment ID: 672
Author Name: David Volpe
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 673
Author Name: Masry Jean Volpe
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 674
Author Name: Michael Volpe
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 675
Author Name: Jennifer Volpe
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 676
Author Name: Evelyn Volpe
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 677
Author Name: Kristie Myers
Organization: Lake Lanier Resident

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 680
Author Name: John Tierney
Organization:

- Incorporate checks and balances management triggers between local, state, and federal agencies to assist in proactively and more efficiently managing future water crisis and drought conditions.
--
- Incorporate checks and balances management triggers between local, state, and federal agencies to assist in proactively and more efficiently managing future water crisis and drought conditions.

Comment ID: 682
Author Name: Bob Kruer
Organization:

Third and most importantly establish a minimum level (for example say 1060 at Lake Lanier) that triggers emergency measures. Once that level is reached only discharge an amount equal to the inflow for the same period. By doing this, all areas of the drainage basin would be impacted equally in times of drought.

Comment ID: 684
Author Name: MICHAEL MC-KEITHEN
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during
Times of drought;

Comment ID: 693
Author Name: James & Teresa Coryell
Organization:

Mgmt. triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 702
Author Name: Julie Starling
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 703
Author Name: Allen DuPont
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 704
Author Name: Allen DuPont
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 706
Author Name:
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 711
Author Name:
Organization: Self

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 712
Author Name:
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 713
Author Name: Bob McLeod
Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 725
Author Name:

Organization:

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Comment ID: 731
Author Name: Phil Sutton
Organization: Hall County Board of Commissioners

-Management triggers must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought;

Drought Plan (Drought Operations)

Comment ID: 11
Author Name: Tom & Patti Montijo
Organization:

Photo taken from our dock on 10/28/07, (IMG 317.jpg) Thompson Creek Area. Please consider changing the goal for full pool to Memorial Day. Specific Regulation for drought conditions with a realistic trigger.

Comment ID: 16
Author Name: William D. Rezak
Organization:

Also, management parameters should be in place to limit lake withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 43
Author Name: Students of River Basin Management
Organization:

2) Prioritize reservoir purposes during extreme drought events. *The Reservoir Management document states: "The principal purposes for which the Federal projects in the ACF basin are operated include: fish and wildlife management, flood control, hydropower, commercial-navigation, reservoir-based recreation, water supply and water quality." *The protection of the wildlife must be of most importance during extreme droughts. Recreation and navigation may be suspended; environmental impacts and harm to endangered species may be irreversible. *Only allow for special releases/retentions and specific accommodations for
Recreation once it has been determined that all other higher priority functions will not suffer or be affected under those specific flow circumstances 3)

Comment ID: 52
Author Name: V.M. Perry, Jr.
Organization: Lake Lanier Association

Contingency Operations the RIOP created a new Composite Storage Zone category called a Drought Zone. The Corps calculates the Drought Zone as “roughly” the equivalent of water in the Inactive Zones for each of the reservoirs in the ACF system plus the water in Zone 4 of Lake Lanier. There has been no explanation of why the Corps believes there is a need for the Drought Zone. According to the Corps’ own projections, if the RIOP had been in place during 2007, the composite storage levels of all the reservoirs would have entered the proposed Drought Zone for only a two-week period in November, 2007. Even though the Drought Plan would have been in effect after the composite level entered Zone 4, there would have been no decrease in the minimum required flow except for that two week
Period. Thus, the implementation of the proposed Drought Contingency Operations provisions would have accomplished little or nothing to prevent Lake Lanier from reaching its lowest point in history on December 26, 2007. It appears that the only reason for the existence of the Drought Zone is to relieve the Corps from having to acknowledge that an exceptional drought exists at much higher composite storage levels, and thereby from reducing flows below 5,000 cfs even in the face of the worst drought on record in Georgia. The net goal would appear to be to avoid

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Invoking the relief theoretically afforded in the Drought Zone by setting the trigger so low that composite storage will almost always remain above it. The truth of this is demonstrated by the fact that Lanier would have been in the Drought Zone under the RIOP for only about two weeks, despite its having endured the worst drought in ACF recorded history. This provision of the RIOP also reduces the potential for composite storage to rise above Zone 4, and does virtually nothing to ameliorate depleted storage conditions upstream in times of drought. We therefore request that the Drought Contingency Operations be implemented at a higher composite storage level, at least at the top of Zone 4, and remain in effect until composite storage returns to the top of Zone 3. We also request that the Corps eliminate the RIOP's seasonal storage limitations and minimum flow thresholds in the new WCP. • Maximum Fall Rate The now-defunct EDO plan suspended the rate at which river stage (and the reservoir discharges that control river stage) could be reduced. However, the RIOP reinstated the original down-ramping rate ("fall rate") provisions except when composite storage level falls to Zone 4 and the Drought Contingency Operation is implemented. The fall rates were a major factor in the excessive depletion of water in Lake Lanier in 2007, and reinstating them threatens to repeat the same disastrous result. Neither the Corps nor the Fish and Wildlife Service has demonstrated science justifying these fall rates. The listed mussels and Gulf sturgeon evolved and presumably thrived prior to the creation of any of the Corps' ACF facilities. At that time, the rise and fall of the rivers were essentially uncontrolled, and the rapidity at which water levels rose and fell were far greater than the effects under either the RIOP. Common sense would suggest that since the species evolved and thrived with uncontrolled fall rates, artificially restricting fall rates is not essential – and may be counterproductive – to their continued well-being. Managing outflows to control flooding is one thing, but the proposed fall rates are a separate and distinct set of controls that is not supported and should not be included in the new WCP. The RIOP provision for a fall rate of 0.25/ft/day in the Drought Zone is a completely unnecessary and inadvisable step that drains the reservoirs without any discernible benefit, and should not be included in the new WCP.

Comment ID: 53
Author Name: Ron Seder
Organization:

Apalachicola River flows are said to be needed for power plants, endangered/threatened species survival/spawning, and a healthy oyster/Gulf fisheries industry. We have yet to see the scientific and justified economic facts behind these claims, and punishing millions of people by taking their water because of the declaration of a few threatened/endangered species in the Apalachicola River is just plain wrong. Because we are not able to predict the occurrence or duration of a drought, it is important that an ACF Water Control plan concentrate on real minimum Apalachicola River flow requirements during dry and other times to save as much water as possible in the reservoirs all the time.

Comment ID: 55
Author Name: Brian Atkins
Organization:

Each of these objectives is critical to the update process. Moreover, the order in which these steps are completed is significant. It is impossible to evaluate and assess proposed changes to the water control manuals unless the critical yields have been calculated and the baseline is established. Refusing to undertake a complete review and assessment of each of these objectives will ensure that valid water control manuals will never be developed and that additional conflicts over the Corps' operations of the federal reservoirs in the ACF Basin will follow. The first objective that must be accomplished is to update the critical yield analysis for Lake Lanier, West Point Lake and Lake Walter F. George (Lake Eufaula), Lake. Without an accurate determination of the amount of water that is available to address the competing demands for water and water storage in the driest of conditions, it will be impossible for the Corps to develop water control manuals that establish operations that are consistent with Congressional intent and satisfy the purposes for which Congress authorized each project. The critical yield analyses for the federal reservoirs in the ACF Basin have not been revised to reflect 2007 drought conditions. Indeed, in the past, the Corps has failed to use then-existing droughts of record to calculate the critical yields; instead deciding that the then-existing drought of record was an outlier and could be ignored. Failure to develop a critical yield analysis based upon the actual drought of record cannot be repeated. Because the conditions in 2007 established a new drought of record, the State of Alabama respectfully requests that the Corps update its calculation of the critical yields from the federal reservoirs, particularly Lake Lanier, as a first

step in its effort to update the water control manuals. The determination of the critical yield should be done in an open and public process that includes input from stakeholders throughout the ACF Basin. Before the critical yields are
Finalized, the Corps should conduct one or more public hearings to allow the public to provide input into the process, particularly any modeling or operating assumptions used to make such calculations. Alabama believes that until the critical yield calculations are updated, any effort to update the water control manuals will be incomplete. The critical yield calculations should consider the inventory of all existing pipes withdrawing water from or discharging treated wastewater to any of the federal reservoirs, including the elevation within the reservoir of each such pipe, and the need to meet downstream minimum flow requirements at Peachtree Creek (750 cfs), Columbus and Phenix City (1,850 cfs) and Plant Farley (2,000 cfs). After the critical yields of the federal reservoirs are determined, the Corps needs to establish the baseline conditions against which any proposed modification to the water control plans will be judged or assessed. Alabama believes the Corps should use the 1959 water control manual for Lake Lanier, the 1975 water control plan for West Point Lake, the 1965 water control plan for Lake Walter F. George, and the 1972 water control plan for Lake Seminole/Jim Woodruff to determine whether there is sufficient water available in each reservoir to meet the Congressionally authorized project purposes of hydroelectric power generation, flood control, and navigation support for the ACF System and to provide water storage for the specific amounts of storage currently under an existing, valid contract.

Comment ID: 65
Author Name: Vicky Ginn
Organization:

We are in favor of the following measures to increase the level of water in Lake Lanier: During the rainy season, the Corps should allow Lake Lanier to reach full pool no later than June 1.
--
We are in favor of the following measures to increase the level of water in Lake Lanier: During the rainy season, the Corps should allow Lake Lanier to reach full pool no later than June 1.
--
Lake Lanier should not be drawn down for mussels and other endangered species in the Apalachicola River.
--
Management prompts must be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 83
Author Name: Steven Voige
Organization:

Why were release levels not curtailed during times of drought previously?

Comment ID: 129
Author Name: Kyle W. Crawford
Organization:

I am concerned about the baseline that is used for West Point Lake compared to other lakes in the basin. I understand that West Point Lake fills faster than some of the other lakes, but in drought conditions our baseline for management puts our lake at a distinct disadvantage to other lakes that have closer baseline measurements.

Comment ID: 204
Author Name: Lee Bedingfield
Organization:

Decrease the winter draw down level on all reservoirs to reduce the impact of drought conditions. This reduction may for short periods impact flood control if we have a series of extremely heavy rain periods but you will not have the long lasting impact of low water conditions in which to recover.

Comment ID: 236
Author Name:
Organization:

In times of drought, priority should be given to keeping lake elevations high rather than allowing high river flow rates to artificially supplement the
natural"" flow. Drought is a ""natural"" condition. "

Comment ID: 245
Author Name: Randy Nix
Organization:

In extreme drought, why not let the flow of the river determine flows into Apalachicola Bay? The mussels and sturgeon survived many droughts before the lakes-they can do it again. Draining Lake Lanier as a short term fix for endangered species will possibly take years to refill, whereas the mussels and sturgeon would have been just fine on run of the river as they were for thousands of years before the dams.

Comment ID: 247
Author Name: Rich Gibson
Organization:

By maintaining West Point Lake from 633-635 msl year round, drought conditions will not cause such a dramatic effect during the summer.

Comment ID: 281
Author Name: Lance Jones
Organization:

The lake was created as a reservoir. I understand when water levels and rain fall is at the normal level of letting more water out to support the riverine system. However, without sufficient inflow, the lake levels will obviously drop as has been demonstrated during the current drought. During these times, and the Corps has done a good job this year, water flow must be restricted to what comes in to the lake. During a drought, if 212 CFS enter the lake, let out 212 CFS. However, do not let out the excess that will help refill the lake. Picture how much water the river would be sending downstream during a drought without the lake being here.

Comment ID: 297
Author Name: Jackson
Organization:

Over the last 2- 3 years particularly and even since I have been a local resident (since late 1981), Lake Lanier has been managed based on needs a long way from the North Georgia region.

It is recognized that the catchment area for Lake Lanier is very small in relation to its volume (3x smaller that for instance Lake Allatoona) and any releases take an inordinately long time to recover.

Recognizing that North GA has been in a severe drought for some time (as it was in 1980 - 1982 and recently in the early 2000s) way too much water is released to the lakes downstream (which have mostly remained close to full) to allow any hope of recovery of Lake Lanier in any reasonable time.

From a mass balance (Engineering) perspective, allowing only as much out as comes into the lake would maintain level (short of evaporation). This is unreasonable however, allowing out 10 times the input (which has been done frequently in the last 3 years) is not sustainable either.

Comment ID: 325
Author Name: Gerald
Organization:

My understanding from the beginning of the crisis in 2006 was that an error was made by the Army Corp (because of a faulty gage) and too much water was released in very short period of time(histogram shows that water was release faster than any other time in the history of the lake). In the past 2 years (with a vigorous drought) we have been able to retain levels above E.L. 1052, with much less water than full pull the lake is not empty, this means that if we had full

pool at the start of the drought we would have more reservoir water and we would have been able to maintain levels close to full pool or at the very least stay in normal operating conditions. The realization that mistake was made , should prompt a special case were the lake can be fill again to full pool, that along new revised management should maintain the lake at proper levels.

Comment ID: 383
Author Name: Gordon Brand
Organization:

The updated Water Control Manual should be based on the entire needs of the ACF Basin. For future droughts, the entire basin users should share the pain equally.

The updated Water Control Manuals should plan for the next drought and keep Lake Lanier as close to full pool as possible.

Comment ID: 384
Author Name: Larry Preston
Organization:

release water from Lanier based on water received into Lanier, during drought conditions little or no water should be released , if the Corp had not released so much water in the past years the metro Atlanta area would not be in such bad shape as it appears to be in now with its water supply..

Comment ID: 410
Author Name: Tim Watford
Organization: The Lake Lanier Association

While there are conflicting demands, it appears Lake Lanier was the only lake in the system that suffered this year. Why can't draw downs happen on the chain of lakes downstream as well and truly "balance" flow. I think consideration should be given to the amounts of rainfall all along the waterway and when one area gets an abundance of rain, it can afford to outflow more water, then restricting outflow in an area that might be experiencing dry or drought conditions. That seems more fair and balanced. There should be triggers in place to make exceptions to the rules when certain drought levels exist in the system. Drought is a normal cycle that mother nature has in place for her own reasons. I contend, if Lake Lanier was not there, there would be virtually no flow down stream during time of extreme drought (like we've been experiencing) and so when we release water during a drought, it becomes an artificial crutch for the eco system down stream that mother nature may have changed on her own. I also believe that during the rainy season, we should hold back water to reach full pool as early as possible and create the reserve capacity for the oncoming dry months.

Comment ID: 420
Author Name: Allen Gresham
Organization:

Outflows from Lake Lanier should not exceed inflows.

Comment ID: 422
Author Name: Jerry Collins
Organization:

Additionally, I believe the discharge from the dam should be regulated to keep the lake at a minimum of 1060.

Comment ID: 427
Author Name: Mark Condon
Organization:

Lastly, please develop an emergency plan to provide for reduced releases when drought conditions exist.

Comment ID: 429

Author Name: George searing
Organization:

3. Include provisions to reduce to the bare minimum to outflow from Lanier during droughts.

Comment ID: 445
Author Name: David Sargent
Organization:

* Measure some Chat River in White Co against release volume. Don't release more than you take in (Do not use rain amount as excuse for past mistakes)

Comment ID: 462
Author Name: Daniel Strickland
Organization:

I believe we should have a specific plan for drought conditions that kicks in when inflow drops below a certain level. We should restrict outflow of Lake Lanier to equal inflow +/- at those times. Naturally with abundant inflows during monsoons there is not a problem of outflow rate. Letting out more water than comes into the lake compounds the problem and ultimately leads to a far worse situation. Refilling the lake should not be based on future projections of wet weather to refill the lake.

Comment ID: 467
Author Name: Susan Garchow
Organization:

Leave more water in Lake Lanier during droughts. It has such a small watershed.

Comment ID: 481
Author Name:
Organization:

Provide a simple plan to release water during a 'drought' - Release significantly less water during a drought(this is the 4th year we are in a drought); just do it!!! &

Comment ID: 487
Author Name: Melvyn & Gail Smith
Organization:

3-Lake Lanier should have flexible withdrawal during droughts;

Comment ID: 493
Author Name: Thomas Vivelo
Organization:

2. We must have in place water management tools and triggers in place to manage drought conditions before the lake gets to critical levels. Those tools should allow conservation of drinking water to be put ahead of all other demands.

Comment ID: 495
Author Name: Christopher Seeley
Organization:

1) Given that Lake Lanier has the smallest watershed (to fill the lake) and is the largest lake in the Chattahoochee system, would it not make the most sense to draw down Lake Lanier LAST when drought occurs? According to the Corp's own statements, it takes 5 times as long to refill Lake Lanier than the other lakes in the system, given the same amount of precipitation in their respective watersheds. Therefore, the most logical and beneficial (for all parties) drought policy would be to drawn down the southern most lake in the system first (to its minimum level), and work up stream, drawing down Lake Lanier last. In effect, holding the hardest to fill lake as a source of last resort. AS proof of this concept, all the lakes in the system are now full (or nearly so) since their low levels of 2006 and 2007, while Lanier is at a record low.

Comment ID: 496
Author Name: James & Martha Burwell
Organization:

Future management of Lake Lanier's water level must include improved observation and reaction to limit withdrawals during periods of drought.

Comment ID: 499
Author Name: Lois D. Salter
Organization: Gwinnett Municipal Association

We wholeheartedly support EPD's request to reduce the releases from Lake Lanier this winter to meet the reduced flow target at Peachtree Creek of 650 cfs. We believe that during this prolonged drought we must all do whatever we can to preserve storage in Lake Lanier. Our citizens along with all the others in unincorporated Gwinnett County are doing our part by supporting the state's watering restrictions and other water conservation efforts. Please grant EPD's request for the reduced releases from Lake Lanier. Drinking water for our citizens is supplied by the Gwinnett County Water System. This water system has its intakes directly in Lake Lanier. It is very important that the lake water elevation does not recede such that the county has to lower its raw water intake at a substantial cost to all the customers of the Gwinnett Water System.

Comment ID: 503
Author Name: Kit Dunlap
Organization: Hall Chamber of Commerce

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can help.....by better management of Lake Lanier and the ACF, particularly during drought times.

Comment ID: 505
Author Name: John and Jodi Wacho
Organization:

5) Minimal emphasis should be placed on transportation flow, power plants and other industries downstream when it comes to the well being of Atlanta and North Georgia. First of all, the lakes in the ACF Basin below Lake Lanier have been overflowing to just slightly below full pool. There is no need below the Dam; there has been no decrease in operation of industries downstream, unlike what is happening around Lake Lanier and in Atlanta. If the current rate of outflow continues, the Lanier Reservoir will be pulled so low that no one will benefit from it. When the area below the Dam is fairing better than the actual reservoir it is pulling form, the outflow needs to slow drastically or stop. Eventually there will be no outflow if the over flow of water from the Dam continues.

Comment ID: 505
Author Name: John and Jodi Wacho
Organization:

Also, in dealing with these same factors, a minimal level at only 12 feet below full pool should be set where the Lake cannot be lowered past this level. These levels should be reviewed and adjusted at certain intervals.

Comment ID: 506
Author Name: Marilyn Haight
Organization:

I remember years ago when we would get 34 inches of rain & the lake would come up 2'. That just doesn't happen anymore. When we are in a drought situation as we have been for the past 3 years, we need to have our water withdrawals lessened.

Comment ID: 512
Author Name: Will Daniel
Organization:

When in a historic drought we need to release less water from the dam,

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Comment ID: 525
Author Name: Walt Banasik
Organization:

3. A workable drought plan--no release during drought

Comment ID: 538
Author Name: George N. Slappey, DDS
Organization:

And the corps should have included in the manual guide lines to hold back reduction of water here during drought.

Comment ID: 546
Author Name: John E. Webb
Organization:

Lake Sidney Lanier has suffered from the Drought for the past 5 years, the inflow of the lake should be tied directly to the outflow. The uses downstream eventually benefit from the release of water.

Comment ID: 550
Author Name: Todd Bitzer
Organization:

During drought conditions (as has been the case for the past several years) the release program needs to be revised to limit water out flow as to protect lake water levels.

Comment ID: 565
Author Name: Haywood Smith
Organization:

I spoke with an eminent meteorologist about the change in the weather, and he stated unequivocally that the current change in weather patterns is due to a solar cycle that could last for a long time, a cycle that has been repeated in our planet's history at fairly regular intervals. We have been due for one for some time, and this drought is part of it. Please assess the lake's purpose based on human need--not wants--as we face these climate challenges.

Comment ID: 567
Author Name: Charles Bannister
Organization: Gwinnett County

We believe that the Interim Operation Plan required the COE to release much more water from storage than was necessary during the fall of 2006 and throughout much of 2007. We believe that a more conservative and equally effective operation of the ACF system could have saved millions of gallons of storage in Lake Lanier and still met the downstream requirements throughout this prolonged drought.

Section 3-3 b. (2) states "The new data may also include records of significant events of extreme conditions of flood or drought which may require modification of the water control diagram." The droughts of 1988, 200 I and the present drought should surely suggest that the COE should make every effort to conserve storage in the uppermost lake in the system to the maximum extent to enable the system to meet its downstream requirements in times of severe drought. Composite storage for the entire system should not be used to justify releases from Lake Lanier because Lake Lanier represents almost one half of the storage for this basin as its uppermost reservoir but that reservoir has only six percent of the basin's drainage area and controls only nine percent of the flow in the basin.

Comment ID: 571
Author Name: Robert Kopp
Organization:

5). Consider history. (Historically there have got to have been droughts equal to or worse than the current one. The mussels, other marine life & wildlife survived & they can/will again. Before the dam & the COE, God & nature ran things & they are still here!). Q/A Comment: Management of the ACF by the COE has played directly into hands of Alabama & Florida in recent years. They have gotten adequate/more than adequate water so why agree to a change? They have & will drag out the water wars as long as possible!

Comment ID: 575
Author Name: Dolly Martin
Organization:

5). Include emergency drought measures in the operational manual to avoid the mis-management that occurred in 2007 and early 2008. For example: Include explicit procedures to temporarily remove endangered species from the criteria to manage flows until the drought emergency is over.

Comment ID: 576
Author Name: Dave Martin
Organization:

5). Include emergency drought measures in the operational manual to avoid the mis-management that occurred in 2007 and early 2008. For example: Include explicit procedures to temporarily remove endangered species from the criteria to manage flows until the drought emergency is over.

Comment ID: 577
Author Name: Brenda Harris
Organization:

5). Include emergency drought measures in the operational manual to avoid the mis-management that occurred in 2007 and early 2008. For example: Include explicit procedures to temporarily remove endangered species from the criteria to manage flows until the drought emergency is over.

Comment ID: 578
Author Name: Billy Harris
Organization:

5). Include emergency drought measures in the operational manual to avoid the mis-management that occurred in 2007 and early 2008. For example: Include explicit procedures to temporarily remove endangered species from the criteria to manage flows until the drought emergency is over.

Comment ID: 597
Author Name: Kent Caldwell
Organization:

Please, please use some common sense here and think twice before you just release water downstream because downstream is having a drought as well and "they need water too!" WELL if we are having a drought and they are too then we need to conserve what precious water we have in Lake Lanier and NOT RELEASE any.

Comment ID: 604
Author Name: FRED ROBBE
Organization:

When there are droughts, water should be released only minimally.

Comment ID: 608
Author Name: Demmin Bass
Organization:

My name is Demming Bass and I live in Marietta, Georgia and work in Gwinnett. I am no expert

on water issues and quite honestly, discussions about water and reservoirs are not exactly how I had planned to spend my Thursday evening. However, I can't think of a more important crisis facing the metro Atlanta region. I'll leave the debates and litigation up to the lawyers, but as just a regular citizen, I would like the Corps to rethink its policy positions based on one simple question: If Lake Lanier and the Buford Dam did not exist, during periods of drought, what would the water flow be downstream? Shouldn't that be at the heart of the issue? Every day during the worst part of the drought I drive over the Chattahoochee on 1-285 below the dam going to and from work. And every day while hearing about the water shortage on the radio, the river looked like it was at flood stage. All the while our water levels in Lake Lanier were getting worse and worse. There's a disconnect there I simply don't understand. For what it's worth, I don't think we should artificially increase flows downstream during periods of drought at the level we have, thus draining all the reservoirs on the Chattahoochee River. If this continues, ultimately nobody--here or downstream --will benefit when there's no water left. Call me crazy, but let's let nature run its course. I encourage the Corps to look at the facts, science, and common sense and consider alternative operating plans before adopting a new Water Control Plan.

Comment ID: 616
Author Name: Craig Grier
Organization:

Put controls in place when in times of droughts the water release is slowed to prevent the issues we have had for the last two years.

Comment ID: 617
Author Name: Robert Skrypek
Organization: Lake Lanier area resident

Create guide lines to protect Lake Lanier from excessive draw downs during periods of drought

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Comment ID: 629
Author Name: Brantley Burns
Organization:

3.Better management methods than those that are now being used MUST be in place during periods of drought.

Comment ID: 631
Author Name: Dixon Sewell
Organization:

Current drought conditions require the Corps to substantially reduce the flow of water from Lake Lanier for safety, health & economic reasons.

Comment ID: 633
Author Name: David Vogelpohl
Organization:

During the rainy season the lake should be allowed to reach full pool no later than June 1st.

During times of drought there must be a procedure in place to decrease the outflow to be no more than measured inflow. If there was no dam, this is the amount of water that would normally flow downstream.

Comment ID: 655
Author Name:
Organization:

Given the small size of the basin area above the Buford Dam, I feel it is critical to aggressively manage outflows during any period when the lake is less than full. I would like to be assured that all options are considered when determining the minimum required outflows during these periods and that high priority on conservation is given. I have plotted the lake levels monthly over the last 40 years and note that the impact of drought periods seems to be greater and more frequent as time passes. I believe this is indicative of the need to manage outflows with

conservation in mind at levels higher than the top of the current Zone 4.

Comment ID: 701
Author Name: Richard P. Sandoz
Organization: Property Owner

Please do not release any more than the absolute minimum amounts of water for downstream wildlife i.e. mussels and none at all during times of drought.

Comment ID: 716
Author Name: John H
Organization:

I believe we have entered a critical point in this issue of water demands of those downstream. I understand that levels of the lakes below Atlanta are near full pool. Why are we discharging so much still? Lanier is 20' down now entering into December whack typically can be very wet. Let's hold on to what we get and release the bare minimum...and let's visit what the bare minimum actually is.

Comment ID: 724
Author Name: D Head
Organization: boater

Keep Lanier full! If there is a drought, THERE IS A DROUGHT!
If our area becomes the desert southeast, a full Lanier can support Atlanta's need far longer than a Lanier 20 feet down!

Comment ID: 767
Author Name: Byron Galway
Organization:

The Corp has always been great about handling flood control, but not always so great in handling drought. We need a cohesive plan to keep water in the lake during droughts. Billions of gallons of Lanier water was released without any thought as to the long term implications.

KEEP WATER IN OUR LAKE LANIER!

Comment ID: 772
Author Name: Lionel Graves
Organization:

Clearly this does not solve the problem in the next few years. It is currently projected that Lake Lanier will reach its lowest level ever within the next few days, and with no major rain events forecast for this Winter will begin next year in similar stressed condition. Nobody can predict what might happen to the Lake levels next year, but common sense would dictate that in these circumstances maximum conservation be employed. It is disconcerting to those of us who live by the Lake that we are in that maximum conservation mode while those downstream are not,(actually they continually demand additional supplies). Have they not heard that the well is running dry?
With a major metropolis dependent on Lanier for its water supply there must be sufficient discharge to sustain human life, but otherwise discharges should be limited to what nature provides, and what the system would supply under natural conditions. Lake Lanier was not created to allow farmers to have a constant flow of water, nor for fishermen in Florida to keep constant salinity in Apalachicola Bay. Before the Lake came into existence everyone survived. It is likely that current conditions will revert to "normal" sometime in the next year or two, but the Corp should be allowed to manage the reserves in the same way that the State of Georgia is at present. In other words Lake Lanier should not be expected to support the ever expanding demands from the lower parts of the system. Perhaps they should take note of the situation in the Murray-Darling Basin of Australia where "normal" conditions have not occurred for almost twenty years. If Lanier suffers ever a small portion of that situation there will be no water at all for any users below the Lake (or no Lake as it would be by then). Surely it is time to use common sense, that is that Lake Lanier is not an eternal spring. During drought conditions discharge should be limited to the amount entering that Lake to the extent this is feasible. Life should be the controlling factor in discharges, not commercial interests. Yes everyone has the

right to attempt to make a living, but surely human existence takes priority? Without the Lake farming and fishing survived.
In summary, my recommendation is that the Corp of Engineers be allowed to reduce flows from Lake Lanier down to average inflow (perhaps over a month time span) during drought conditions, and that in these conditions the only criterion that would permit higher discharges is to sustain the drinking water supply down river (and only provided all user are under maximum conservation rules)

Comment ID: 804
Author Name:
Organization:

During drought conditions the lake should be allowed to reach full pool by June 1st.

Comment ID: 812
Author Name: Tim Perkins
Organization: Forsyth County

We must hold back as much water as possible in Lake Lanier during drought times. Water supply is the highest need.

Conservation Plan (Drought Operations)

Comment ID: 16
Author Name: William D. Rezak
Organization:

Also, management parameters should be in place to limit lake withdrawals during times of drought.

Comment ID: 42
Author Name: Tom Oliver
Organization: Hall County Government Board of Commissioners

3. Management triggers should be in place for Lake Lanier withdrawal during times of drought. The Corps should limit withdrawals during a drought from Lake Lanier to be no greater than a release which is necessary to provide a flow of 750 cubic feet per second past the sewage discharge from the city of Atlanta into the Chattahoochee River;

Comment ID: 296
Author Name: Kathy Nguyen
Organization:

More than 3 million people depend upon Lanier and Chattahoochee River for Water Supply. With limited possibilities for future reservoirs and further impacts on strained river basins by these reservoirs the management of Lanier based upon sound science including a more aggressive look at water supply preservation during historical droughts is imperative.

Comment ID: 487
Author Name: Melvyn & Gail Smith
Organization:

3-Lake Lanier should have flexible withdrawal during droughts;

Comment ID: 496
Author Name: James & Martha Burwell
Organization:

Future management of Lake Lanier's water level must include improved observation and reaction to limit withdrawals during periods of drought.

Comment ID: 499
Author Name: Lois D. Salter

Organization: Gwinnett Municipal Association

We wholeheartedly support EPD's request to reduce the releases from Lake Lanier this winter to meet the reduced flow target at Peachtree Creek of 650 cfs. We believe that during this prolonged drought we must all do whatever we can to preserve storage in Lake Lanier. Our citizens along with all the others in unincorporated Gwinnett County are doing our part by supporting the state's watering restrictions and other water conservation efforts. Please grant EPD's request for the reduced releases from Lake Lanier. Drinking water for our citizens is supplied by the Gwinnett County Water System. This water system has its intakes directly in Lake Lanier. It is very important that the lake water elevation does not recede such that the county has to lower its raw water intake at a substantial cost to all the customers of the Gwinnett Water System.

Comment ID: 506
Author Name: Marilyn Haight
Organization:

I remember years ago when we would get 34 inches of rain & the lake would come up 2'. That just doesn't happen anymore. When we are in a drought situation as we have been for the past 3 years, we need to have our water withdrawals lessened.

Comment ID: 741
Author Name: Carol Schwarz
Organization:

Both a public relations on water CONSERVATION and having specific standards as criteria for increased flow during droughts needs to be employed. CONSERVATION!!!

Comment ID: 772
Author Name: Lionel Graves
Organization:

Clearly this does not solve the problem in the next few years. It is currently projected that Lake Lanier will reach its lowest level ever within the next few days, and with no major rain events forecast for this Winter will begin next year in similar stressed condition. Nobody can predict what might happen to the Lake levels next year, but common sense would dictate that in these circumstances maximum conservation be employed. It is disconcerting to those of us who live by the Lake that we are in that maximum conservation mode while those downstream are not,(actually they continually demand additional supplies). Have they not heard that the well is running dry?
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In summary, my recommendation is that the Corp of Engineers be allowed to reduce flows from Lake Lanier down to average inflow (perhaps over a month time span) during drought conditions, and that in these conditions the only criterion that would permit higher discharges is to sustain the drinking water supply down river (and only provided all user are under maximum conservation rules)

Drought Impacts (Drought Operations)

Comment ID: 19
Author Name: Bill Thomas
Organization: Georgia Outdoors, Inc.

To everyone concerned, I am a landscape business owner and a property owner on Lake Lanier; therefore I am being hit as hard as any by the drought and poor resource management by the corps of engineers. I have seen many form letters from professional associations that I am a member, and asked to send in copies to the local officials and our state representatives. I can only address some of the problems from my view, but they affect everyone not just landscape business owners, and lake property owners.

Comment ID: 53
Author Name: Ron Seder
Organization:

The drought consequences have been shared unfairly along the ACF. While Lake Lanier has established record daily low levels every day this year, West Point Lake and Lake George have been virtually full almost all of that time, and the Apalachicola River has been running above the minimum 5000 cfs flow a majority of the time. The most important purpose of Lanier storage, Atlanta Area water supply, is threatened, while the normal $5.5 billion Lanier recreational economy has been seriously damaged by low Lanier levels. The critical focus of a new ACF Water Control Plan should be on having adequate water during the dry times of the year and during the driest (drought) years. A water control plan is needed during normal years, but the management during normal times is much less challenging than during, and preparing for, the dry times. Because reduced ACF inflows during dry times can be the most damaging, the ACF system should be managed as though there is always a drought about to occur. That would dictate keeping more water in the reservoirs to soften the negative impacts of a drought. The reason Lanier has set new daily record low levels every day this year, while the rest of the ACF has suffered much less pain, is that Lanier reportedly contains most of the storage on the ACF while it is fed by the smallest watershed (about 5% of the total ACF watershed). Therefore, once Lanier levels have been drawn down it takes a lot of rain and a long time for them to recover. So, for a given amount of rain, West Point and George levels rapidly recover while Lanier realizes modest Lake Level improvements. Why are the reservoirs drained so rapidly during a drought? Because of power generation releases during the initial reservoir draw downs along with the flow and ramping requirements established for the Apalachicola River. Although the Atlanta Area is often accused as being the culprit during dry times, the Atlanta area water supply consumes less than 5% as much water as is required for Apalachicola River flows, even during droughts. Part of the current problem is that the Flint River, which produces virtually the same amount of water as the Chattahoochee River, has no storage to supplement river flows during dry times. Therefore, uses (primarily agriculture irrigation) of the Flint River and associated aquifer waters (there reportedly is a transference of water between Flint River and associated aquifers) reduces the Flint River flows, requiring more water to be released from Chattahoochee River reservoirs to make up for the lost Flint River contribution the Apalachicola River flow. So it is especially important to minimize the consumption of Flint River waters and associated aquifers during droughts.

Apalachicola River flows are said to be needed for power plants, endangered/threatened species survival/spawning, and a healthy oyster/Gulf fisheries industry. We have yet to see the scientific and justified economic facts behind these claims, and punishing millions of people by taking their water because of the declaration of a few threatened/endangered species in the Apalachicola River is just plain wrong. Because we are not able to predict the occurrence or duration of a drought, it is important that an ACF Water Control plan concentrate on real minimum Apalachicola River flow requirements during dry and other times to save as much water as possible in the reservoirs all the time.

Comment ID: 55
Author Name: Brian Atkins
Organization:

The State of Alabama also believes that the Corps' updated manuals should establish some degree of certainty in drought conditions. The Corps' water control manuals should recognize

that releases from conservation storage at Lake Lanier for protection of downstream flows and water quality are necessary and expected and that impacts to recreation and recreation facilities are temporary but unavoidable during dry conditions.

Comment ID: 86
Author Name: Charles Chapman
Organization:

Gadsden County Florida borders the Apalachicola River and its western basin. The flood controls and multitude of wildlife and environmental treasures of the basin and the river are non-comparable any where else in the State of Florida. The recent operational modes during the drought"" conditions have led to many traditionally wet areas to become dry and boggy. Many of our residents have commented on the lack of water in traditional fishing areas along the river as well as trouble with navigating their personal watercraft along the river and its corresponding estuaries."

Comment ID: 245
Author Name: Randy Nix
Organization:

In extreme drought, why not let the flow of the river determine flows into Apalachicola Bay? The mussels and sturgeon survived many droughts before the lakes-they can do it again. Draining Lake Lanier as a short term fix for endangered species will possibly take years to refill, whereas the mussels and sturgeon would have been just fine on run of the river as they were for thousands of years before the dams.

Comment ID: 429
Author Name: George searing
Organization:

I am very concerned with the water levels at Lake Lanier and whether or not we will have enough water for drinking, cooking, etc. I know that it has to rain in order for the lake to get higher.

Comment ID: 496
Author Name: James & Martha Burwell
Organization:

As of this date, Lake Lanier is over 18 feet below full pool, a record low for this time of year. The severe drought in North Georgia and past Corps of Engineers' management strategy have combined to bring about this lake condition.

Comment ID: 500
Author Name: Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce
Organization: Hall Chamber of Commerce

A large part of Lake Lanier is unsafe for use. The visitors to Lake Lanier are down over 1,000,000 from 2007. We are seeing other states use Lake Lanier's low levels as a tool to recruit businesses from the state of Georgia. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can help.....by better management of Lake Lanier and the ACF, particularly during drought times. Thank you and the Corps for partnering with the Gainesville I Hall County community in protecting and enhancing Lake Lanier.

Comment ID: 501
Author Name: Russell Landscape Group
Organization: Russell Landscape Group

The new Water Control Plan should not simply replicate existing past operations which have unnecessarily drained these reservoirs to low water levels. I am in hope that the Corp of Engineers will take the responsibility to study all possible alternatives to determine the most effective and best use of reservoir storage given current basin conditions. At present, 3 million residents in North Georgia rely on Lake Lanier and the Chattahoochee River as their sole source of drinking water. Just as important, Lake Lanier is the major resource that supplies

water to Metro Atlanta's business and industry community, including my profession as a landscape contractor. The Green industry affords an 8 billion dollar annual economic impact to the state of Georgia.

Comment ID: 503
Author Name: Kit Dunlap
Organization: Hall Chamber of Commerce

Yes, we are still experiencing a drought.

Comment ID: 631
Author Name: Dixon Sewell
Organization:

Current drought conditions require the Corps to substantially reduce the flow of water from Lake Lanier for safety, health & economic reasons.

Sharing the Effects of Drought (Water Resources)

Comment ID: 180
Author Name:
Organization:

When will Floridians be accountable for their use of water?

When will they be asked to account for watering indiscriminately while demanding more of our water supply be released to them--and for freshwater mussels/clams or whatever?

If their neighbors (Georgia, etc.) are experiencing extreme conditions, why not ask for their support in limiting their use as well? What is good for one, in this case, would be beneficial to all involved.

Comment ID: 377
Author Name: Jonathon Heard
Organization: City of Cumming

The State of Georgia owns the water in the system and should be allowed to dictate where it is utilized for human consumption. Human consumption should take prudence over all other uses within the system. Water conservation methods should be analyzed for effectiveness and plans implemented across the entire system, not just in Atlanta and North Georgia.

Comment ID: 415
Author Name: Diane mcgrath
Organization:

Allowing Georgia to issue permits almost indiscriminately for water use and development is the equivalent of allowing them to use our sacrifice and moderation for their greed and gain. During this summer's drought I did not see ONE LAWN THAT WAS NOT BRIGHT GREEN IN THE ATLANTA AREA.
Let them live with dried up lawns and dirty cars so that the water is used for its life giving qualities first and luxury last. If they have to restrict themselves to drinking and bathing what is the harm in that?

Comment ID: 423
Author Name:
Organization:

It seems to me that we need to limit the use of water consistently across the states. I am an

Alpharetta Resident for 14 years and recently I moved part time to Jacksonville FL. I see so much water wasted watering lawns, etc. I also have a place in Panama City Beach FL and see the same level of waste in play. If FL doesn't have any watering restrictions or other controls in place, why are we sending GA water to FL. This has puzzled me for several years. Just thinking they might need to provide for themselves. Thank you.

Comment ID: 433
Author Name:
Organization: n/a

Lake Lanier and Georgia residents should not have stricter water restrictions than Florida and Alabama; quite the opposite.

Comment ID: 566
Author Name: Tom Riggle
Organization:

It seems that what has happened is that people downstream have developed communities and projects and then said, OK, now we must have the water to support what we just built. Well, nature plays the key role in this. If nature doesn’t provide, then we all should be impacted the same way.

Adaptive Management (Drought Operations)

Comment ID: 6
Author Name: Heinz J. Mueller
Organization: EPA

EPA also encourages a specific discussion related to any ACF adaptive management plans (AMPs). EPA suggests that AMPs should address uncertainty associated with in stream flow prescriptions, such as the drought situations where minimum flow releases become the norm rather than the 7Ql 0 frequency interval. It is suggested that any AMP include conservation and resource-protective flow standards based upon available information; identify monitoring programs to include the use of flow related sensitive endpoints; and identify an effective procedure that would allow for revision based on new information.

Climate Change (Climate Change)

Comment ID: 45
Author Name: Gail Carmody
Organization: Fish and Wildlife Service

Climate Change -- We recommend that the Corps consider how climate change may affect ACF flow regimes and how to best adapt reservoir operations to the most likely foreseeable changes. The effects of a given set of operating rules will vary depending on whether the basin’s climate becomes drier, wetter, more variable, or less variable. In particular, it is vitally important to adapt the level set as the top of conservation (TOC) pool to the long-term hydrology of the basin and the essential purposes the projects serve. In a scenario with greater variability between annual high flows and low flows, for example, it may not be feasible for these projects to simultaneously serve their existing levels of flood control protection and minimum flow support without adapting TOC levels to prevailing weather conditions. The Corps already practices this concept with occasional variances from the rule curves to store water above the TOC elevation during dry periods. We recommend that the Corps explicitly address climate-based operational flexibility in the WCM update and in the analyses of the EIS.

Comment ID: 67
Author Name: Jeff Lukken
Organization: Mayor of LaGrange

In summary we no longer live in the 1940's 50'60's70' or 80's. The ACF system operates in a new millennium. Demographics, development patterns, climate changes and other factors have brought forth an entirely new reality tile Corps must contemplate and address

in a new water Control manual for the basin.

Comment ID: 69
Author Name: Jeff Brown
Organization: Troup County Chamber of Commerce

In summary, we no longer live in the 1940's, 50', 60's, 70' or 80's. The ACF system operates in a new millennium. Demographics, development patterns, climate changes and other factors have brought forth an entirely new reality the Corps must contemplate and address in a new water Control manual for the basin.

Comment ID: 103
Author Name: Heidi Recksiek
Organization:

Climate change predictions must be considered in this process. (both increased drought and increased heavy rain events.)

Comment ID: 575
Author Name: Dolly Martin
Organization:

3). Recognize that dry weather conditions will remain in the Southeast. Our environment is changing and our water systems cannot be managed as they were 20 years ago.

Comment ID: 576
Author Name: Dave Martin
Organization:

3). Recognize that dry weather conditions will remain in the Southeast. Our environment is changing and our water systems cannot be managed as they were 20 years ago.

Comment ID: 577
Author Name: Brenda Harris
Organization:

3). Recognize that dry weather conditions will remain in the Southeast. Our environment is changing and our water systems cannot be managed as they were 20 years ago.

Comment ID: 578
Author Name: Billy Harris
Organization:

3). Recognize that dry weather conditions will remain in the Southeast. Our environment is changing and our water systems cannot be managed as they were 20 years ago.