



Middle Chattahoochee Council Draft Plan Review

Middle Chattahoochee Plan: Major Themes

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Master Water Control Manual for the ACF

- Current operating plan is inadequate; contradicts and compromises authorized purposes, specifically, recreational use at West Point Lake
- Revised Water Control Manual to be complete in 2012 (draft available for review June 2011)

Impacts of current operating plan:

- Economic and Recreational
- Fish and Wildlife Conservation
- Critical Habitat
- Reservoir Drought Operation
- Hydropower
- Water Quality
- Reservoir Operation and River Flow

Lack on information on Alabama demands



Operating Plan Recommendations

Modify operations plan to:

- Reduce operational flood storage and improve lake levels for recreation in West Point Lake
- Establish and maintain instream flow targets below Columbus and Columbia planning nodes to ensure adequate protection of water quality for downstream users
- Allow for operational flexibility to enable storage reservoirs to recover faster after severe droughts and reduce risk of follow-up droughts
- Ensure protection of critical habitat for listed species, based on thorough science

Endorses the modeling work of Georgakakos of modifications to operating plan



Selected Middle Chattahoochee Management Practices

- Study the development of new surface water storage reservoirs
 - Determine the potential for additional storage to relieve gaps and shortfalls modeled in resource assessments and identify implementation challenges and environmental concerns
- Implement new surface water storage as necessary
 - Where feasible pursue projects to enhance regional supply to meet future demands and protect instream flows
- Prevent reservoir levels from dropping below critical levels
 - Protect authorized recreational uses of federal reservoirs
- Modify system operation to allow the federal reservoir projects to recover more rapidly after drought conditions
 - Advocate for changes to US Army Corps of Engineers operation of the ACF basin to allow greater adaptability of the engineered system to climatologic conditions



Selected Middle Chattahoochee Management Practices

- Advocate for change to biological flows below Woodruff Dam based upon scientific justification study
 - Advocate further study of the RIOP flow requirements below Woodruff Dam by the US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Optimize the balance of uses and Congressionally authorized purposes of federal reservoirs in the ACF Basin
 - Advocate for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to improve the balance and priorities for uses and stated purposes of the federal reservoirs (i.e. hydropower, flood control, water supply, recreation, fish & wildlife habitat) and to optimize the uses



Middle Chattahoochee

Recommendations to the State

- Comprehensive Overhaul of the Water Control Manual and Operating Procedures
- Task Forces for Alabama and Energy Water Use Forecasting
- Metro North District Returns
- Science Based Determination of JWLD Minimum Release
- Further Research on Groundwater Development
- Increase Storage in the System (*including existing nonfederal reservoirs*)
- Water Conservation Program Evaluation
- Funding for Additional Resource Assessments
- Increase State Funding for Implementation of Management Practices
- Creation of Water Planning Districts and Interstate Compacts

Middle Chattahoochee: Plan Extension and Amendments

- Section 8.3: Requests extension of process to consider Corps of Engineers modification of Water Control Manual
- Section 8.4: Requests process for plan amendment prior to 5-year update

Possible Areas of Concern

- Competing uses in ACF
 - Middle Chattahoochee emphasis on recreation
- Flint vs. Chattahoochee flow contributions
- Uncertainty surrounding Operations Plan revisions

“Borrow” from Middle Chattahoochee?

- Recommendations to the state:
 - Woodruff dam releases
 - Water conservation program evaluation
 - Water planning districts
- Management Practices
 - LAS (page 6-4)
 - Storage (page 6-4)