

PANEL DISCUSSION:

CITIZEN GROUP PERSPECTIVES ON THE COMPREHENSIVE STUDY FOR THE APALACHICOLA-CHATTAHOOCHEE-FLINT AND THE ALABAMA-COOSA-TALLAPOOSA RIVER BASINS

ORGANIZER: Steve Leitman, Florida Defenders of the Environment, Route 7, Box 1192, Quincy, Florida 32351.

REFERENCE: *Proceedings of the 1993 Georgia Water Resources Conference*, held April 20 and 21, 1993, at The University of Georgia, Kathryn J. Hatcher, Editor, Institute of Natural Resources, The University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.

Moderator: Steve Leitman, Florida Defenders of the Environment, Route 7, Box 1192, Quincy, Florida 32351.

ABSTRACT

Panelists:

Sally Bethea, The Georgia Conservancy, 1776 Peachtree Street, N.W., Suite 400 S., Atlanta, Georgia 30309.

Fred Anderson, Lake Lanier Property Owners' Association, P.O. Box 1458, Cumming, Georgia 30130.

William Segars, University of Georgia, Cooperative Extension Service, 318 Hoke Smith Bldg, Athens, Georgia 30602.

Sandy Vandagriff, Executive Director, Tri-Rivers Waterway Development Assoc., P.O. Box 2232, Dothan, Alabama 36302.

Patricia Stevens, Chief, Environmental Planning, Atlanta Regional Commission, 3715 Northside Parkway, 200 Northcreek, Suite 300, Atlanta, Georgia 30327.

David Miller, Alabama Power, 600 N. 18th Street, Birmingham, Alabama 35291.

During the past Georgia Water Resources Conference, the States of Alabama, Georgia and Florida and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were involved in what has been popularly referred to as a "Water War." This war was initiated through the filing of a lawsuit by the State of Alabama against the Corps of Engineers because of the proposed re-allocation of storage in Lake Lanier from hydropower to water supply and because of the proposed adoption of a reservoir control plan for the federal reservoirs in the Chattahoochee River.

Ultimately, the parties chose to address this issue through negotiation rather than fighting it out in the court rooms and, in January 1992, the parties signed a Memorandum of Agreement to avert legal actions. A key part of this agreement was the commitment by the parties to jointly conduct a comprehensive water resources study of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint and Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa drainage basins.

This panel discussion will focus on the progress of this Comprehensive Study from the perspective of various interest groups throughout the State of Georgia. All of the panelists have been asked to make a short presentation on their expectations from the Comprehensive Study, how well they feel the study has done toward meeting these expectations as it nears mid-term, and what steps could be taken to improve upon the study.

Members of the panel represent diverse interests in the basin, including hydropower, irrigation, navigation, environment, recreation, and metropolitan Atlanta.