

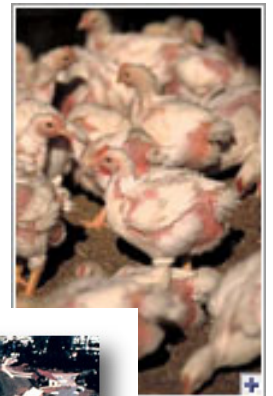


State Water Plan
Summary
GAWP Spring Conference
April 22, 2008



Vision Statement For Water Plan

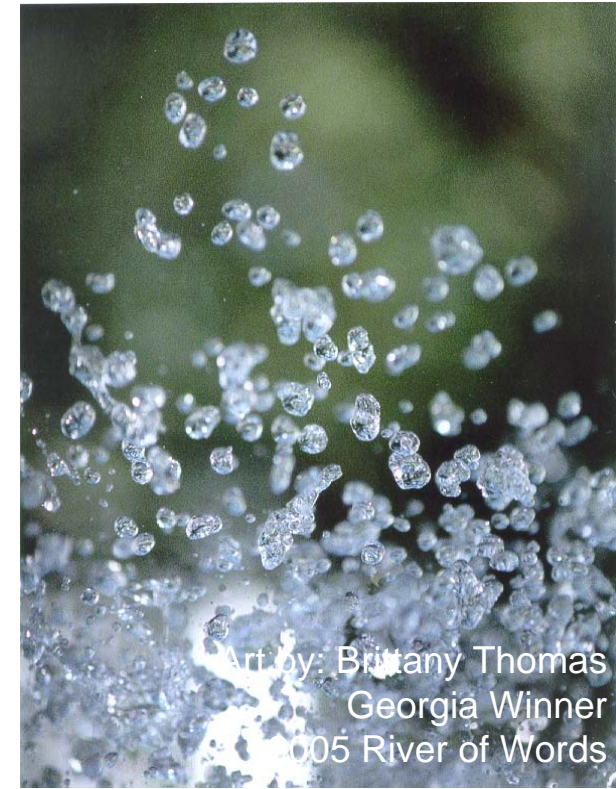
“Georgia manages water resources in a sustainable manner to support the state’s economy, to protect public health and natural systems, and to enhance the quality of life for all citizens.”





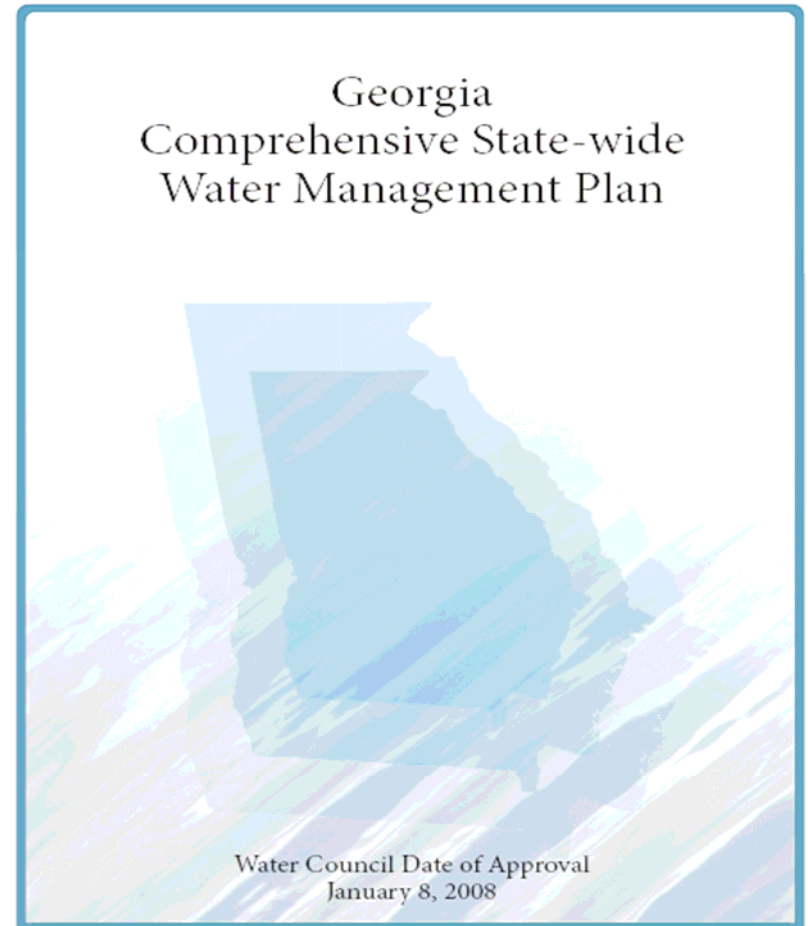
Purpose of Plan

- Within framework of existing laws, provide a guide for the sustainable management of water resources by:
 - Supporting Georgia's Economy;
 - Protecting Natural Systems & Public Health; and
 - Enhancing Citizens' Quality of Life



- Introduction to Statewide Water Planning
- Overview – Georgia’s Water Resources
- Comprehensive Statewide Water Management Plan***
- Implementation of Regional Water Planning
- Acknowledgements

***Section submitted to legislature



Major Aspects of Plan

■ Water Policies

- Integrated Water Policy
- Water Quantity Policy
- Water Quality Policy

■ Resource Assessments

■ Management Practices

- Water Quantity
- Water Quality

■ Regional Planning

- Demand Forecasts
- Water Development & Conservation Plans





Integrated Water Policy

- Links future water quality management decisions with water quantity management decisions
- Where appropriate, links surface water management deliberations and groundwater management deliberations;
- Links water withdrawal decisions with water return decisions;
- Accomplishes this linking through existing authority for permitting water withdrawals, drinking water, and water discharges, and erosion and sediment control authority.



Water Quantity Policy

- Manage Georgia's waters in manner that recognizes the values and opportunities provided by surface and groundwater historic flow patterns
- Manage consumptive uses of Georgia waters so that opportunities associated with these historic flow patterns continue to be available to Georgians of the future



Water Quality Policy

- Protect and preserve the quality of Georgia's waters through watershed-based management of both point and non-point sources of pollution
- Restore impaired waters through use of watershed-based management tools

- The Plan proposes that the State determine capacities of various water resources – around the state – to support additional water consumption, and to assimilate additional pollutants.





Water Quantity Assessments

- Using scientifically valid data and information, determine historic flows available within specific water sources to support human needs and the needs of natural systems.
- From these assessments, determine the quantities of water available to sustainably support human uses ('consumptive use assessments').



Water Quality Assessments

- Using scientifically valid data and information, determine the extent to which specific current surface water systems can accommodate the introduction of additional quantities of pollutants without violating established water quality standards for that resource.

- The Plan identifies some current and some new management tools that could be employed to help ensure continued sustainable use of Georgia's waters.





Water Quantity Management Practices

- Manage consumptive use of water through selection of a mix of management actions from the following categories:
 - Demand Management Practices
 - Supply Management Practices
 - Return Management Practices

- Water Conservation activities
 - Conservation rate structures
 - Water loss control programs
 - Outdoor water use schedules
- Water reuse activities





■ Interbasin and/or Intrabasin Transfers

- In compliance resource assessments, and in conformance with WDCPs and rigorous set of requirements

■ Surface Water Storage

- Based upon rationale demand forecasts; full investigation of options; site selection to minimize environmental impacts, etc

■ ASR & Desalination

- Regional investigation of these options

Selected Returns Management Practices

- Centralized Treatment & Discharge of Water

- On-Site Sewage Treatment & LAS
 - Assessment of return rates
 - Assessment of locations of returns





Water Quality Management Practices

- Management actions and activities that control the extent to which we call upon Georgia's waters to assimilate additional quantities of pollutants.
- Arrays of actions that are technically effective and economically feasible management practices that prevent some percentage of these pollutants entering our streams.

Selected Water Quality Management Practices

- Continue Point Source Management Successes
- Enhance Standards
 - Bacteria
 - Dissolved Oxygen
- Non-Point Source Management
 - Improved stormwater mgmt compliance
 - Coordinated environmental planning & land use management programs
- Explore New Tools
 - Pollutant allocation trading

