

**Weather:**

The northern ACF basin has seen average to above average rainfall in the month of January. Multiple systems moving through the basin have provided 4 to 5 inches of rain in some areas over the past 2 weeks. Figure 1 shows the total rainfall inches over the past 2 weeks.

Over the next week the ACF will have two systems move through the area and are expected to provide multiple inches of rain over parts of the basin. The first system will arrive on this Thursday and provide much needed rain to the Flint River. The second will arrive Monday or Tuesday and could produce multiple inches of rain in the basin. Figure 2 shows the percent of average rainfall forecast in the basin over the next week.

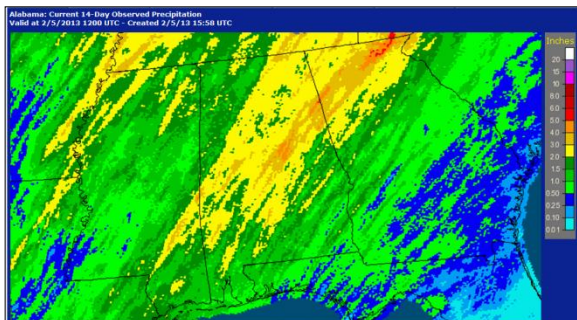


Figure 1. Last 14 days of observed precipitation in the southeast courtesy of the southeast RFC. (<http://water.weather.gov/precip/>)

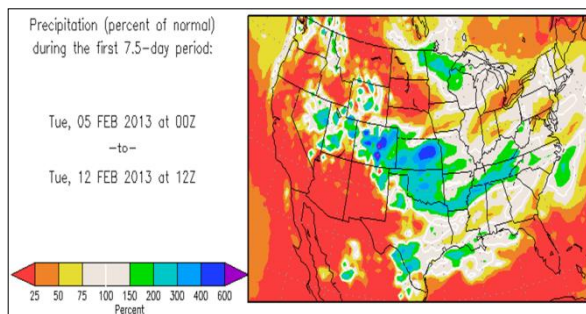


Figure 2. Weekly precipitation outlook from the National Center of Environmental Prediction (<http://wxmaps.org/pix/prec1.html>).

**Lake Lanier (Buford Dam):**

Lake Lanier is currently near elevation 1063.8 feet and is forecasted to be near 1064.3 feet by the end of next week. The lake is currently near the middle of zone 3 and is forecast to remain near the middle of zone 3 by throughout the month of February. Releases from Lake Lanier are only to support the current 650 cfs flow requirement on the Chattahoochee River near Peachtree Creek. Daily average releases from Lake Lanier are forecast to average 620 cfs over the next week. Local inflows into Lake Lanier averaged 3469 cfs or 136% of normal in the month of January. The 14-day average historical streamflow at the Cornelia gage upstream of Lake Lanier is in the 59<sup>th</sup> percentile.

**West Point Lake:**

West Point Lake is currently near elevation 630.42 feet and is expected to be near elevation 630.1 feet by the end of next week. West Point Lake is above the top of zone 1 and is forecast to remain slightly above the top of zone 1 throughout February. Releases from West Point currently support the Jim Woodruff 5,000 cfs release requirement while maintaining a system storage balance between Lanier, West Point and Walter F. George. Expect daily average releases from West Point to be around 3,233 cfs over the next week. Local inflows into West Point averaged near 2512 cfs or 62% of normal in the month of January. The 14-day average historical streamflow at the Whitesburg gage upstream of West Point is in the 8<sup>th</sup> percentile.

**Walter F. George Reservoir:**

Walter F. George Reservoir is currently near elevation 188.89 feet and is expected to be near elevation 188.6 feet by the end of next week. Walter F. George is currently above the top of zone 1 and is forecast to remain above the top of zone 1 in the next week. Releases from Walter F. George currently support the Jim Woodruff 5,000 cfs release requirement while maintaining a system storage balance between Lanier, West Point, and Walter F. George. Walter F. George daily average releases are expected to be around 6,350 cfs over the next week. Local inflows into Walter F. George have averaged 1879 cfs or 32% of normal for the month of January.

**Lake Seminole (Jim Woodruff Dam):**

Lake Seminole is currently near elevation 76.74 feet. Lake Seminole is a “run of river” project meaning it does not contain any conservation storage and generally passes all inflow. The lake is expected to maintain an elevation between 76.5 and 77.5 feet in February. The Corps is currently releasing about 8,000 cfs from Jim Woodruff Dam. Releases are expected to remain near 8,000 cfs in the coming week. Local inflows into Jim Woodruff averaged about 3816 cfs or 26% of normal in January.

**Basin Wide Conditions:**

Heavy consecutive rain events in the ACF basin have allowed the ACF reservoirs to recover significantly. West Point Lake and Walter F. George are currently well above their winter guide curves and are forecast to continue to remain full through February. Lake Lanier has seen very large gains this winter. Since mid December Lake Lanier has risen over 7 feet, which is much more than is typical for that period of time. The lake also continues to see near normal inflows for this time of year and continues to recover from the ongoing drought in the basin. However, many parts of ACF remains under extreme(D3) or exceptional(D4) drought conditions, especially around the Flint River. Streamflows on the Flint River have seen a good deal of recovery but have stayed within the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile of normal flows. With some significant rainfall forecasted over the Flint, streamflows are expected to improve slightly this week. As of May 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 the Corps

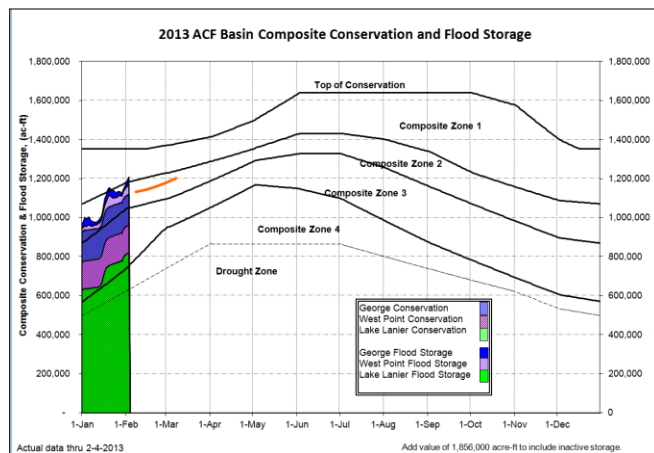


Figure 3. ACF Composite Conservation Storage

has begun drought operations as described in the Revised Interim Operating Plan (RIOP) for Jim Woodruff Dam. Drought operations give the Corps the ability to store more water in the reservoirs if significant rain occurs while still meeting the minimum needs of protected species in the Apalachicola River. Releases into the Apalachicola River had been near 8,000 cfs over the past two weeks but are expected to increase to 10,000 to 12,000 cfs over the next week. This is due to increased flows in the Flint River and evacuating some water to maintain pool levels near guide curve at West Point and Walter F. George. The current ACF Basin composite

conservation storage is in zone 2. Composite conservation storage is the summation of the remaining conservation storage in Lake Lanier, West Point Lake, and Walter F. George Reservoir. Figure 3 reflects the current conservation storage conditions and five week forecast. The composite conservation storage is forecasted to improve due to the forecasted rainfall this week and will likely remain in zone 2 throughout February. The image on the page 4 illustrates the remaining storage in each lake as well as the streamflow at a number of ACF stream gage locations as of February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Important Links:**

**ACF Water Resource Update:** <http://water.sam.usace.army.mil/wm/>

**ACF and ACT 5 Week Forecasts:** <http://water.sam.usace.army.mil/lfc.htm>

**NIDIS Drought Warning System:** <http://www.drought.gov/portal/server.pt/community/acfrb>

**ACF Composite Conservation Storage:** <http://water.sam.usace.army.mil/ACFcomposite.htm>

**Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF)**  
**Daily Average Flows and Midnight Lake Stages for**  
**Sunday, February 03, 2013**

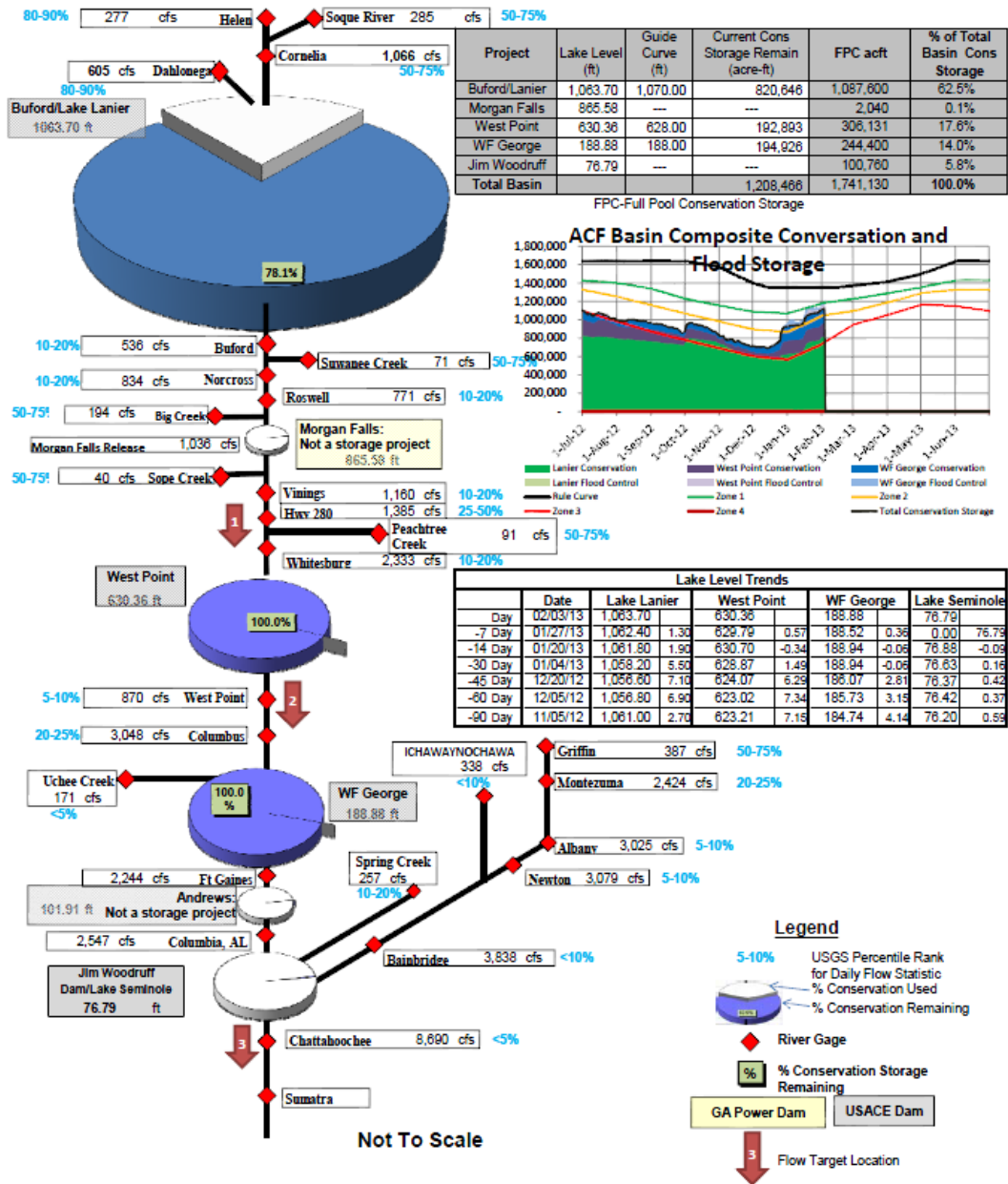


Figure 4. ACF remaining storage and streamflow.