

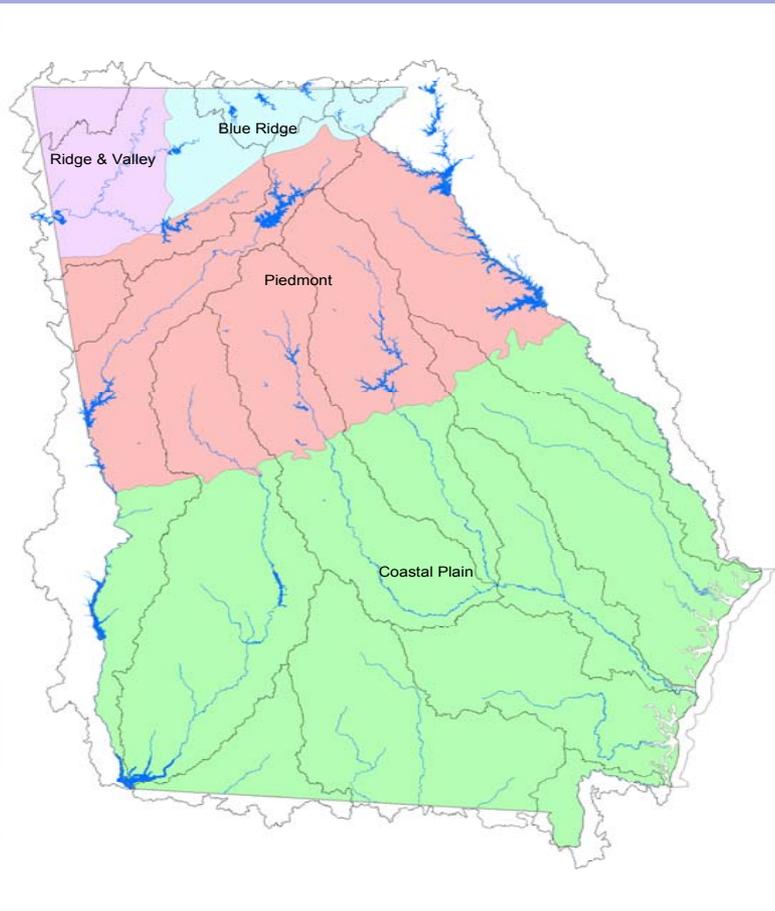
Evolution of Georgia's Stream Flow Protection Policy

Nap Caldwell, GA EPD

February 8, 2005



Georgia Water Facts



- **70K miles of streams**
- **14 river basins**
- **50" of annual rainfall**
- **420K+ acres of publicly owned lakes**
- **4 major physiographic provinces**

Board of Natural Resources

Department of Natural Resources

Wildlife Resources

Coastal Resources

Environmental Protection

P2AD

Parks

HPD

PSD

WRD

&

CRD

- Fisheries & Fishing Areas Management
- Hatchery Stocking
- Fishing Areas Construction
- T/A to Owners of Private Ponds
- Education/Outreach

- Coastal Marshland Protection Act
- Shore Protection Act
- Process General Permits for Recreational Dock
- Coastal WQ Assessments
- Marine Fisheries Management
- Education/Outreach



EPD

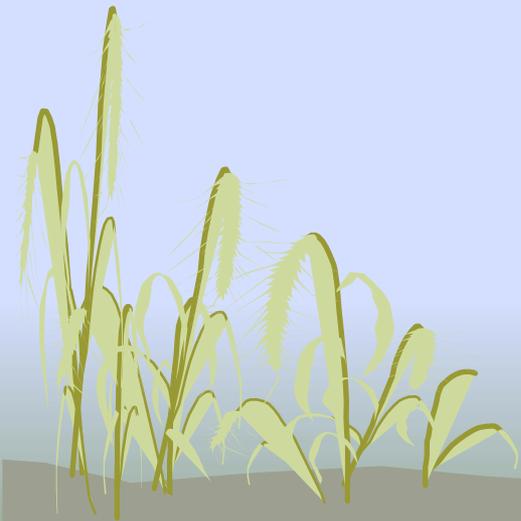
- Water Management Through Regulatory Programs -

• WATER ALLOCATION

- Groundwater Use Act
- Water Allocation Amendments to GA Water Quality Control Act

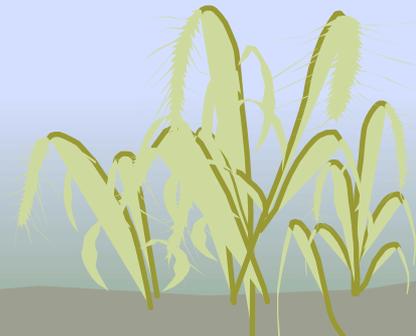
• WATER PROTECTION

- Water Quality Control Act
- Erosion & Sedimentation Act
- Safe Drinking Water Act
- Water Well Standards Act
- Oil or Hazardous Spills or Releases Act



Water Quantity & Quality Permitting (...but what about biology?)

- **Withdrawal Permits**
(Non-Grandfathered Surface Water)
 - Protect integrity of NPDES permits
 - Protect downstream withdrawers
- **Point Source Discharge Permits (NPDES)**
 - Set permit limits based upon presumption of “X” flow available for assimilation

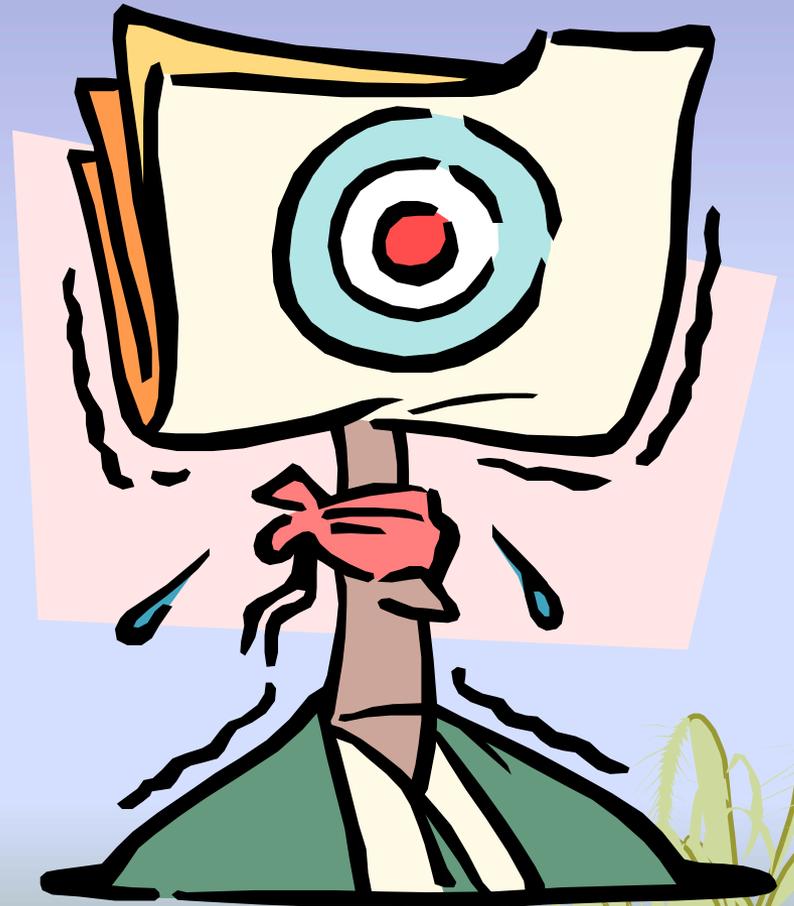


Pre-2001 EPD Stream Flow Protection Requirements

- Annual 7Q10 (*NPDES permits based upon presumption of existence of “monthly” 7Q10*)
- Non-Depletable Flow (*i.e., annual 7Q10 + pro rata share of pre-existing downstream permitted withdrawals*)
- Other as defined by Director

Beginnings of Change

- '82 Inter-Divisional Consultation
- '93/'94 Anxiety @ WRD
- Dec., '94 Inter-Divisional Consultation (WRD/EPD)
- Reflection/Silence/Study
- Dec., '95 WRD Publication



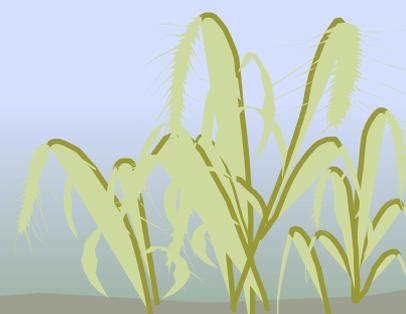
...meanwhile...



- 100,000 new jobs annually (*96%+ in metro Atlanta*)
- '96 Summer Games publicity & build-up
- Population rumbling toward a 26% Increase in '90's (*95%+ above the Fall Line*)

Let The Talks Begin

- Inter-Divisional staff coordination to foster change
- External encouragement (*NGO's*)
- Internal recommendation to form stakeholders group
- Directors' acquiescence (*Summer of '96*)



Stakeholders Group

- WRD & EPD
- Ga Wildlife Federation
- Ga Water & Pollution Control Assoc.
- Ga Municipal Assoc.
- Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
- Ga Power Company
- Trout Unlimited
- Atlanta Regional Commission



Major Recommendations

- No Retroactive Implementation
- Eliminate Annual 7Q10 as Future Option
- “Interim” Choice of Three
 - Monthly 7Q10
 - WRD Approach
 - Site-Specific Instream Flow Study
- State to Conduct Site-Specific Studies As Basis for Final Stream Flow Policy



Potential Impacts

Project (Jurisdiction)	YIELDS (mgd)				REQUIRED STORAGE (ac)		
	<i>Annual 7Q10</i>	<i>Monthly 7Q10</i>	<i>30% AAF</i>	<i>30/40/60% AAF</i>	<i>Annual 7Q10</i>	<i>30% AAF</i>	<i>30/40/60% AAF</i>
Cornish Cr. (Newton Co)	27	17	19	12	12,700	24,100	50,400
Strickland Plan (Henry Co)	27	18	20	16	25,800	46,800	53,800
Rush Cr. (City of Manchester)	4.3	2.7	2.3	1.9	1,300	4,000	6,500
Horton Cr. (Fayette Co)	18	15	12	9	10,400	37,400	45,400
Big Haynes Cr. (Rockdale Co)	27.3	15.6	13.8	8.6	?	?	?
Dog River (Douglas Co)	10		4	3.8	3,900	7,600	8,200

Directors Decision

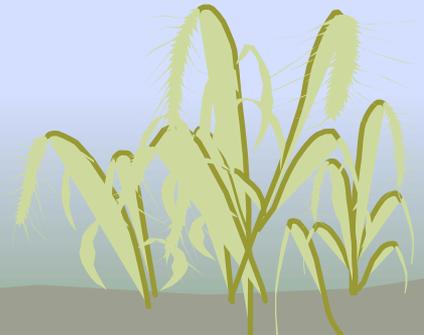
(Fall, '97)

- Insufficient In-State Studies Foundation From Which to Proceed to Approaches with Very Large Impacts
- Support Notion of Conducting Site-Specific Studies



3+ Years of Relative Silence

- Drought of the Century ('98 – '02)
- Statewide Outdoor Water Use Restrictions
- Municipal Water Supply Crises (drying reservoirs & streams)
- Rural Water Crises (drying wells)
- Agricultural Water Supply Crises
- Faltering Interstate Water Negotiations



Historic '01 Legislative Session

- Metro North Georgia Water Planning District Act
- Flint River Drought Protection Act
- Joint House-Senate Water Plan Study Committee Resolution



Re-visitation of Recommendations

- Board of Natural Resources Reaction to Joint House-Senate Resolution
- Board “Visits” Earlier Stream Flow Protection Recommendation
- Board Adopts Earlier Recommendations



Georgia Economy Tanks

- Revenue Collections Catastrophe
- Several Years of Deep Budget Cuts
- Bad 'Climate' in which to Request State Funds for Instream Flow Studies
- Essential Element of Adopted Stream Flow Maintenance Policy Languishes

Where From Here?

- Continue to Push for State Funds
- Aggressively Pursue non-State Funds
- Pray for Drought

