

# AG WATER USE AND POLICY IN THE SOUTHEAST

USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum  
“Building on Innovation: A Pathway to Resilience”  
February 19, 2021



GEORGIA  
*Water*  
PLANNING & POLICY  
— CENTER —  
ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY

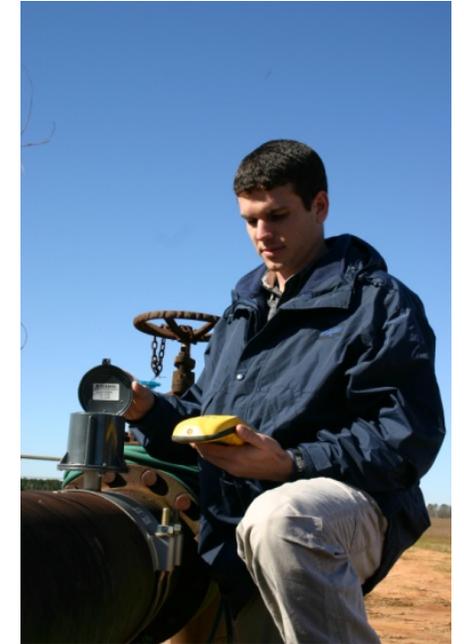
**Mark H. Masters**  
**Georgia Water Planning & Policy Center**  
**Albany State University**



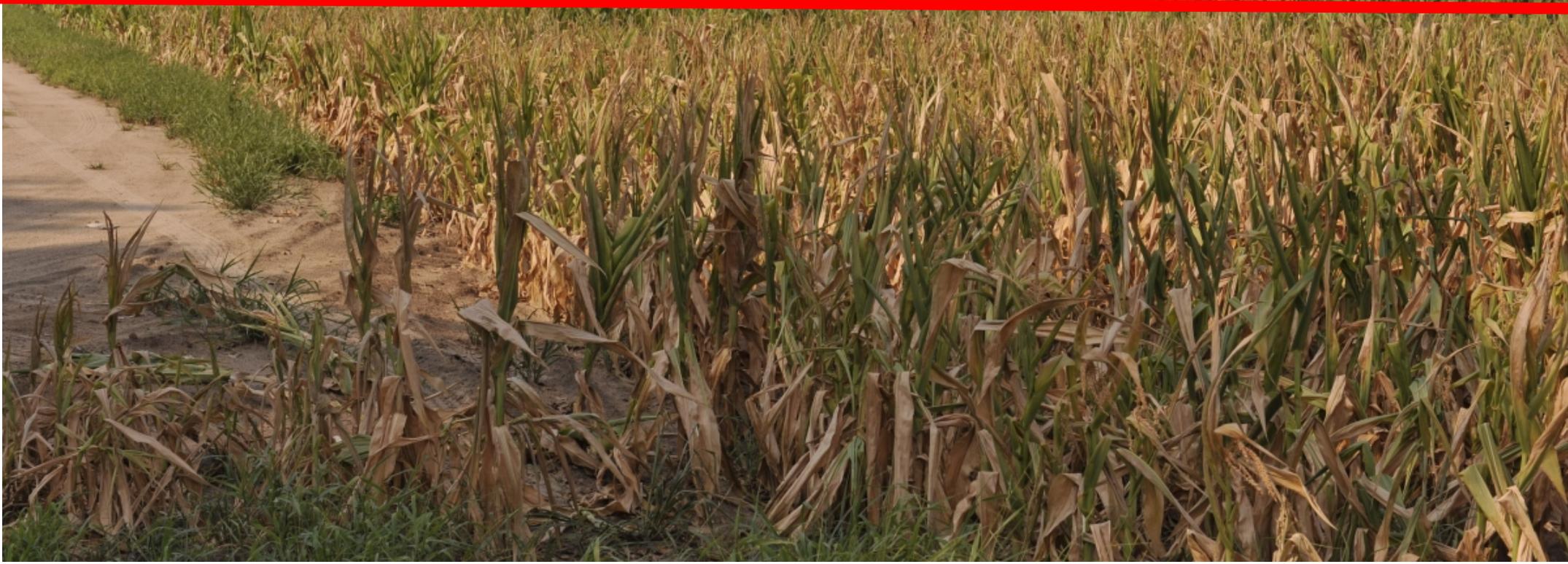
UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

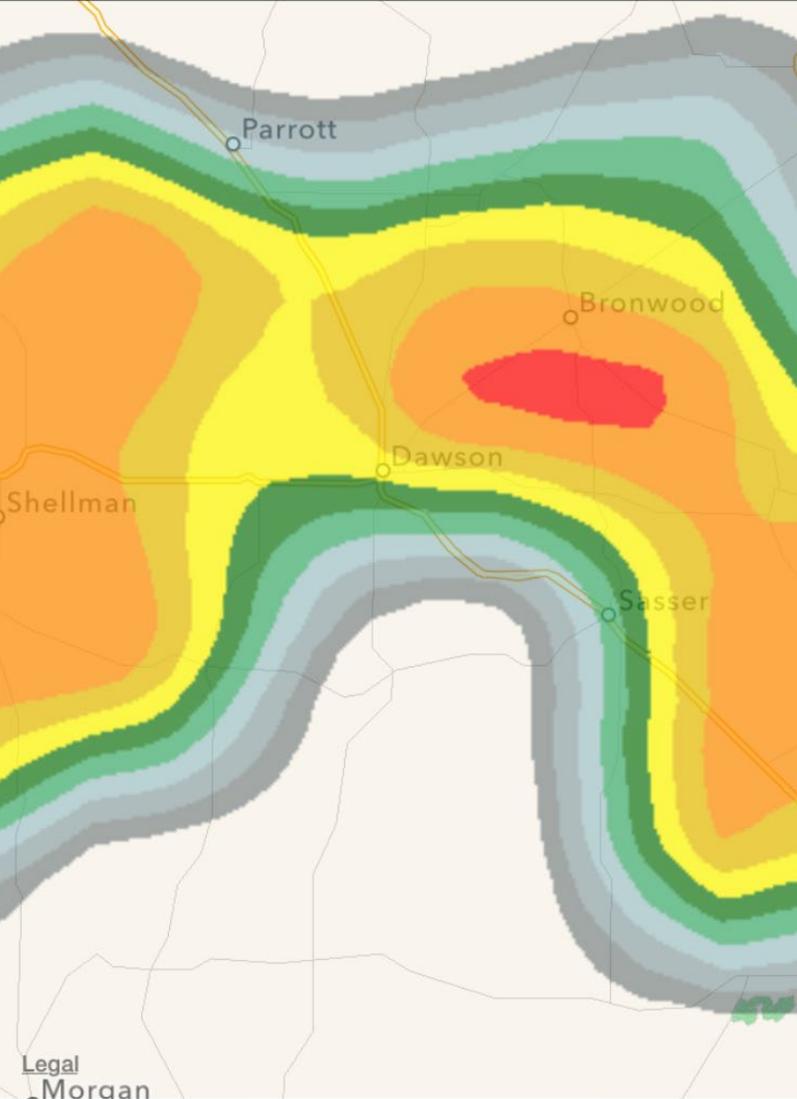
# WHO WE ARE

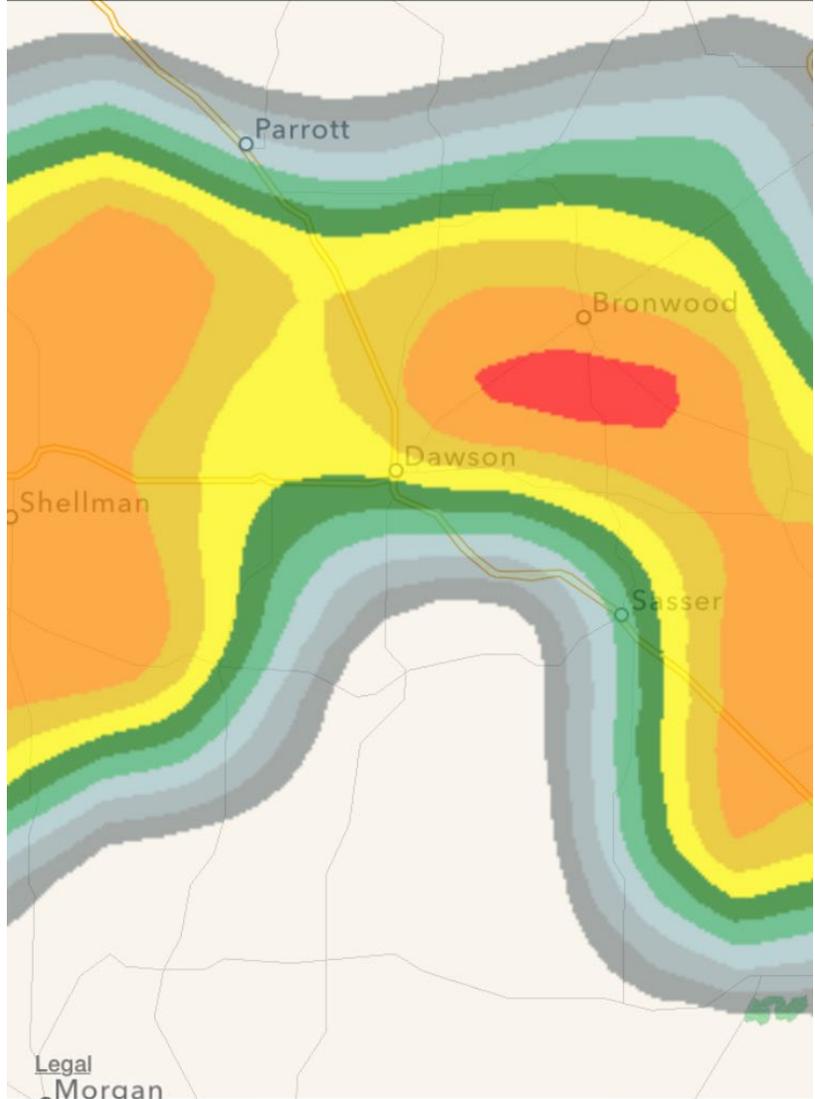
An **objective, statewide** institution that assists policymakers in designing policies that provide for improved **water resource management** in Georgia via water planning, research, education and technical assistance.





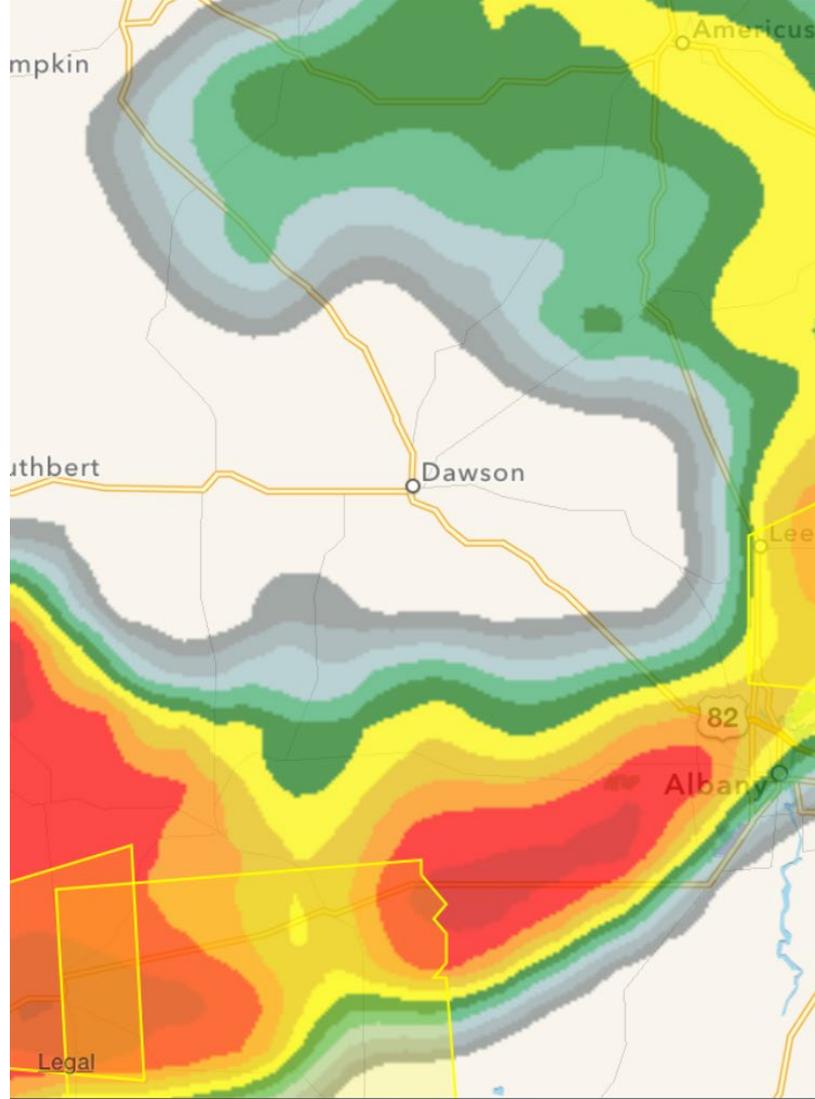






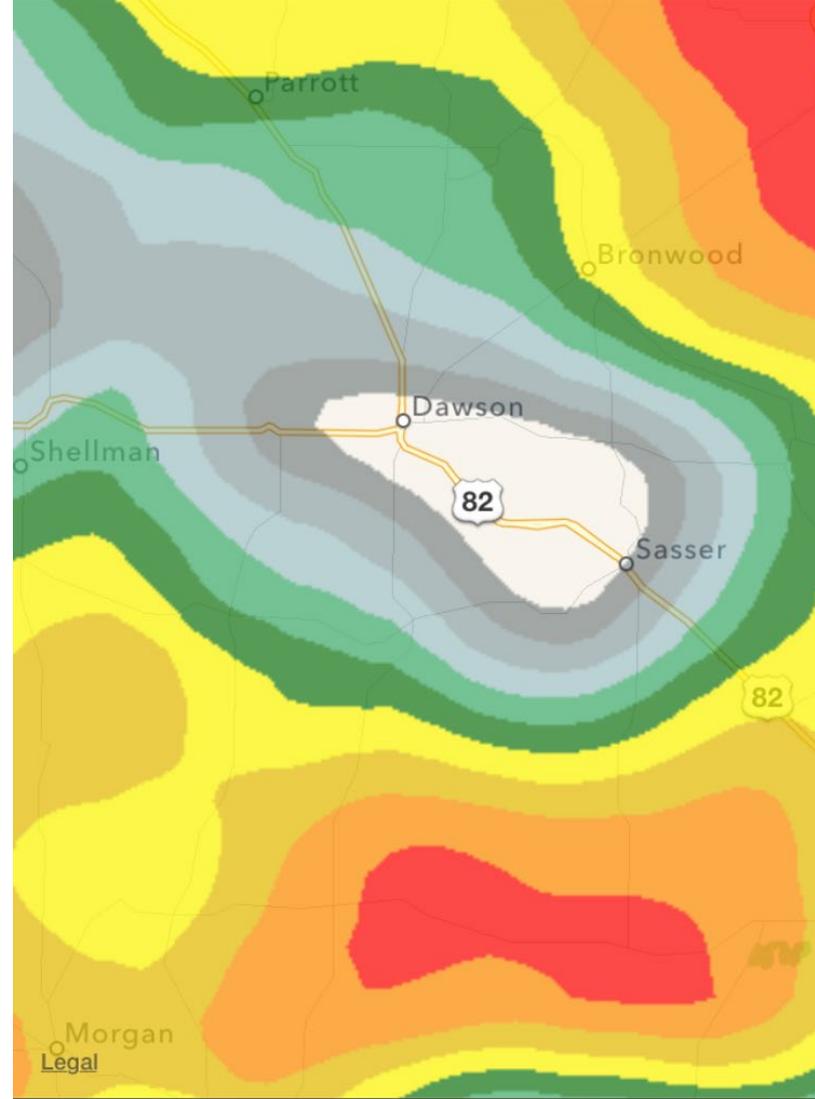
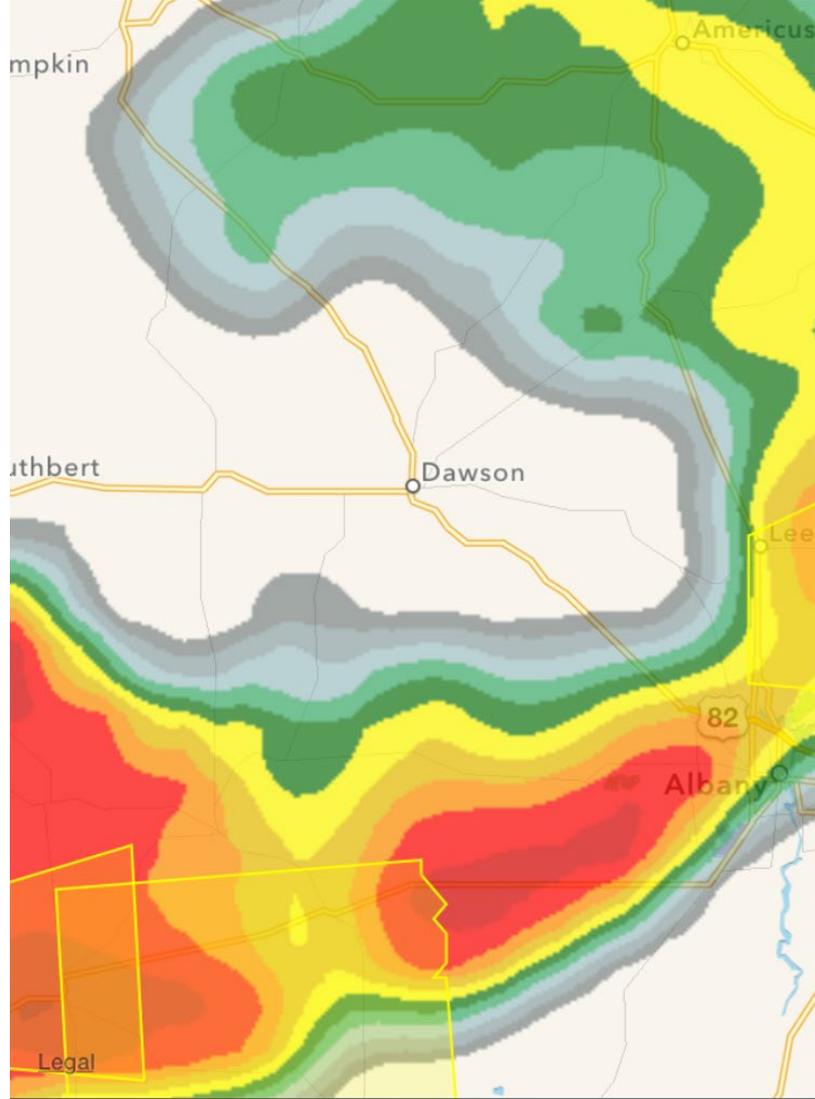
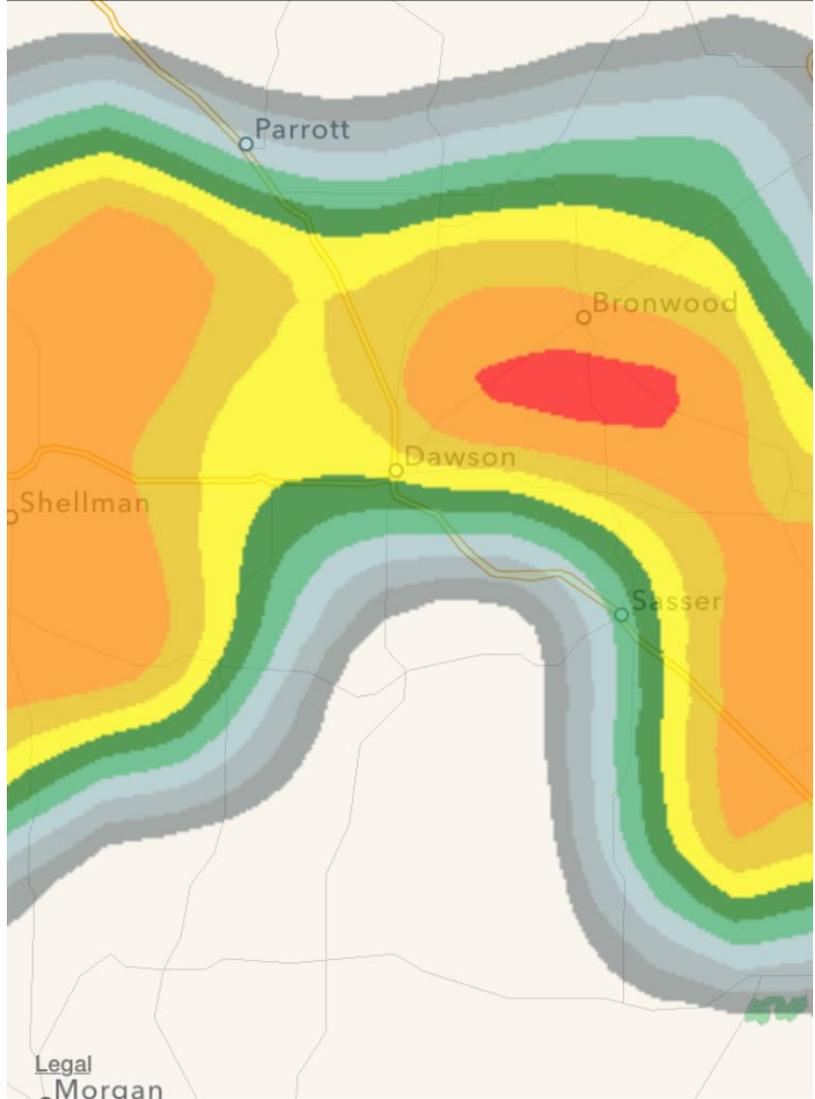
Legal Morgan

Navigation controls: share, back, play, pause, forward, refresh.



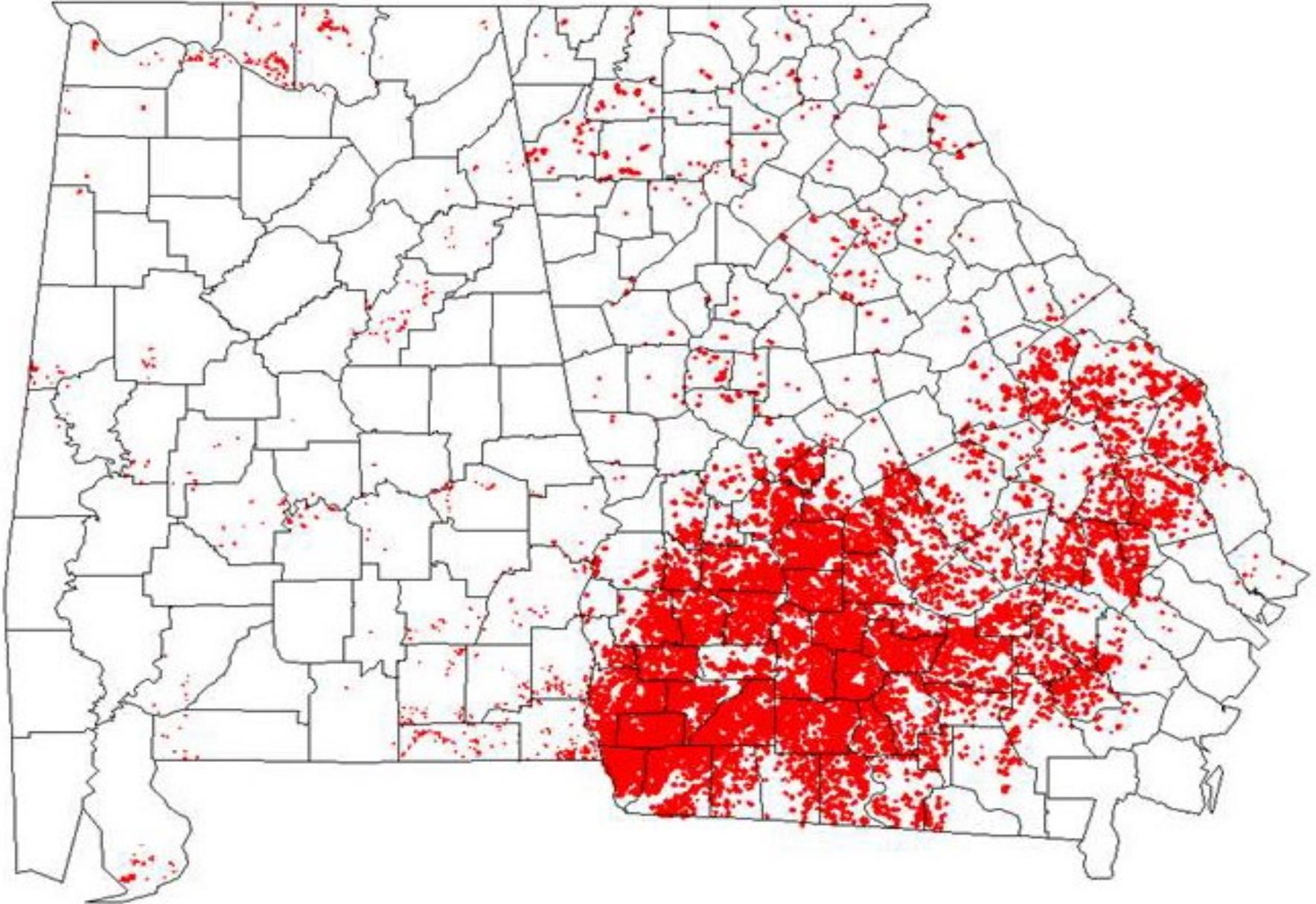
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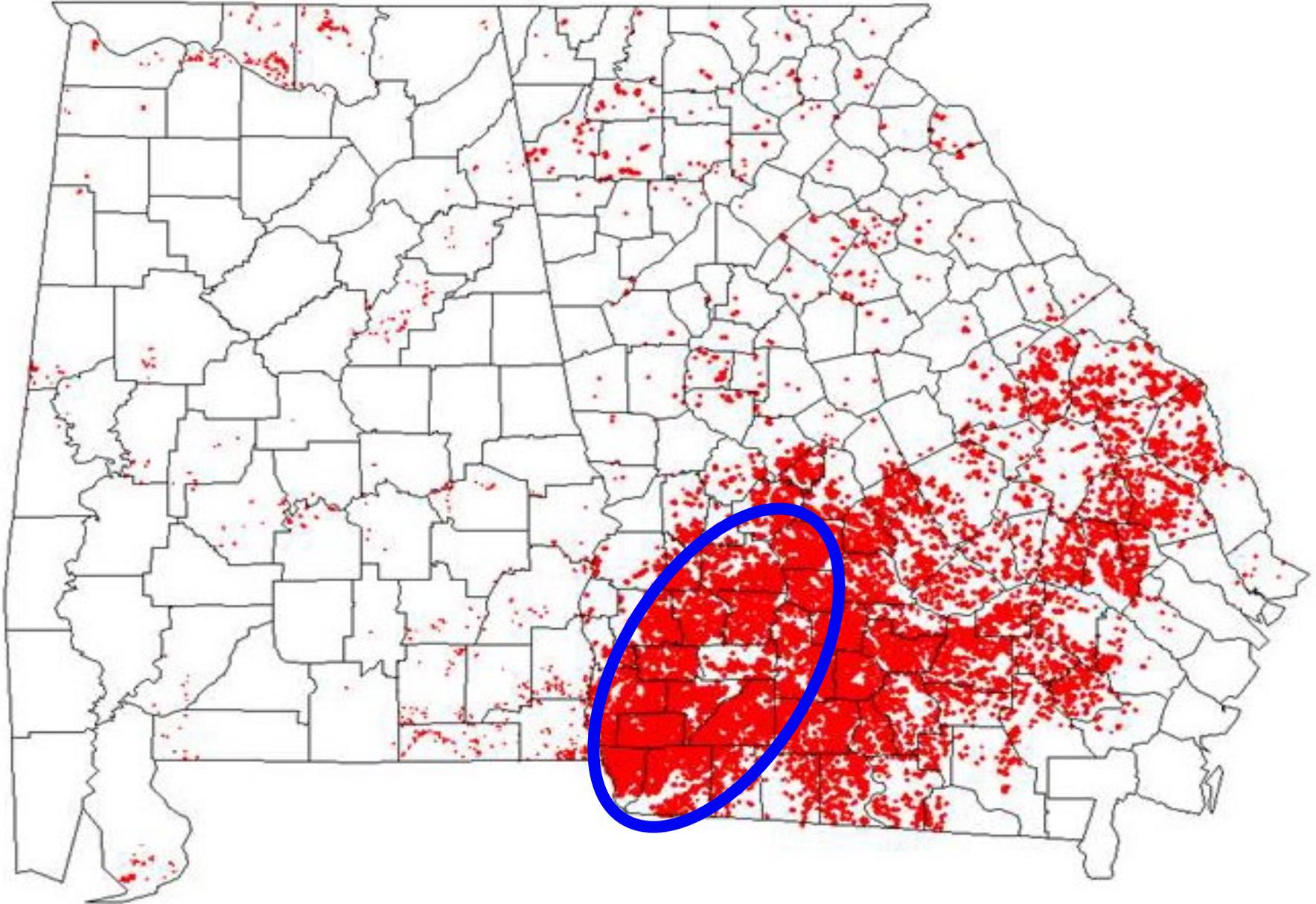


# Center Pivots in AL and GA



Map by Cameron Handyside, UAH. AL data UAH; GA data ASU GWPPC

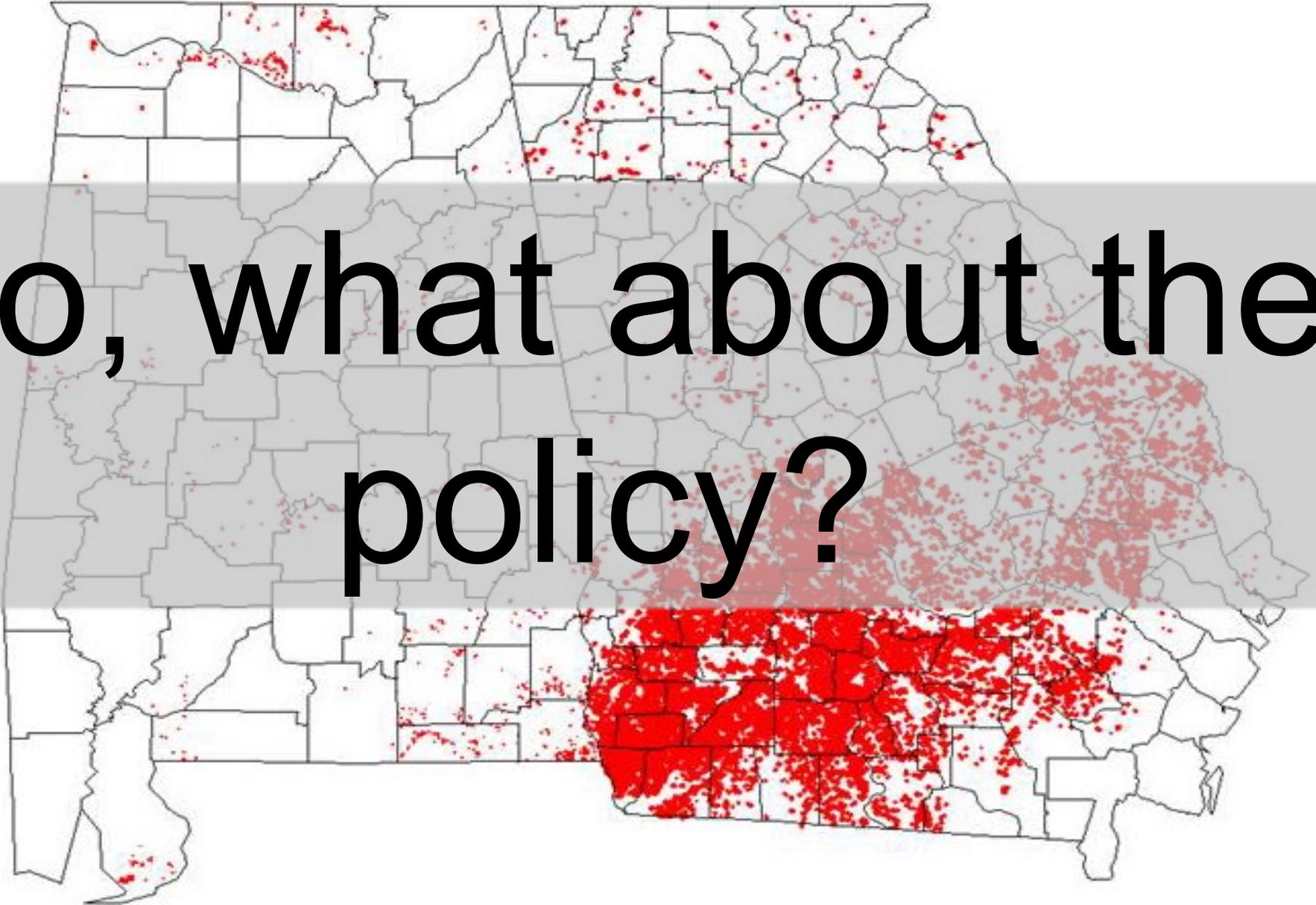
# Center Pivots in AL and GA



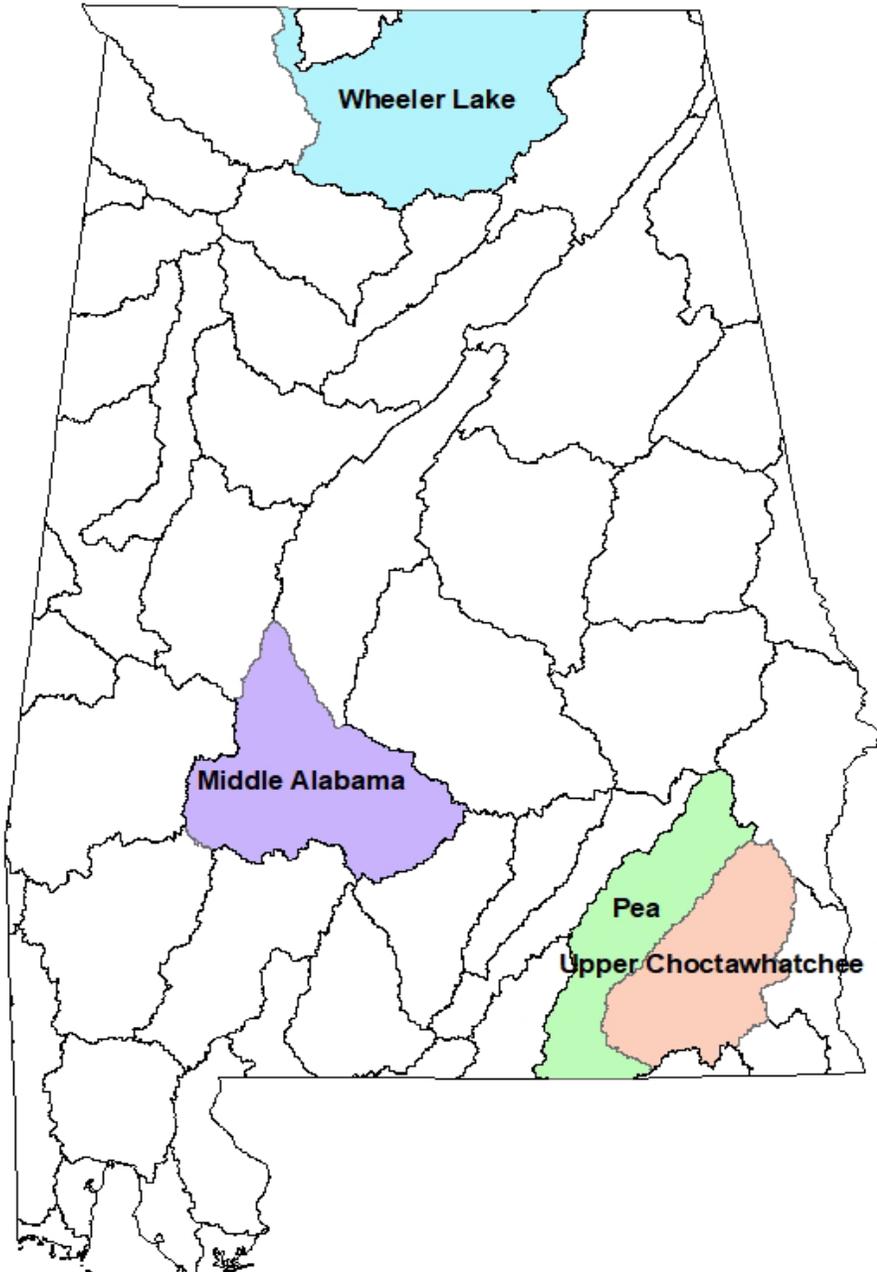
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# Center Pivots in AL and GA

So, what about the  
policy?



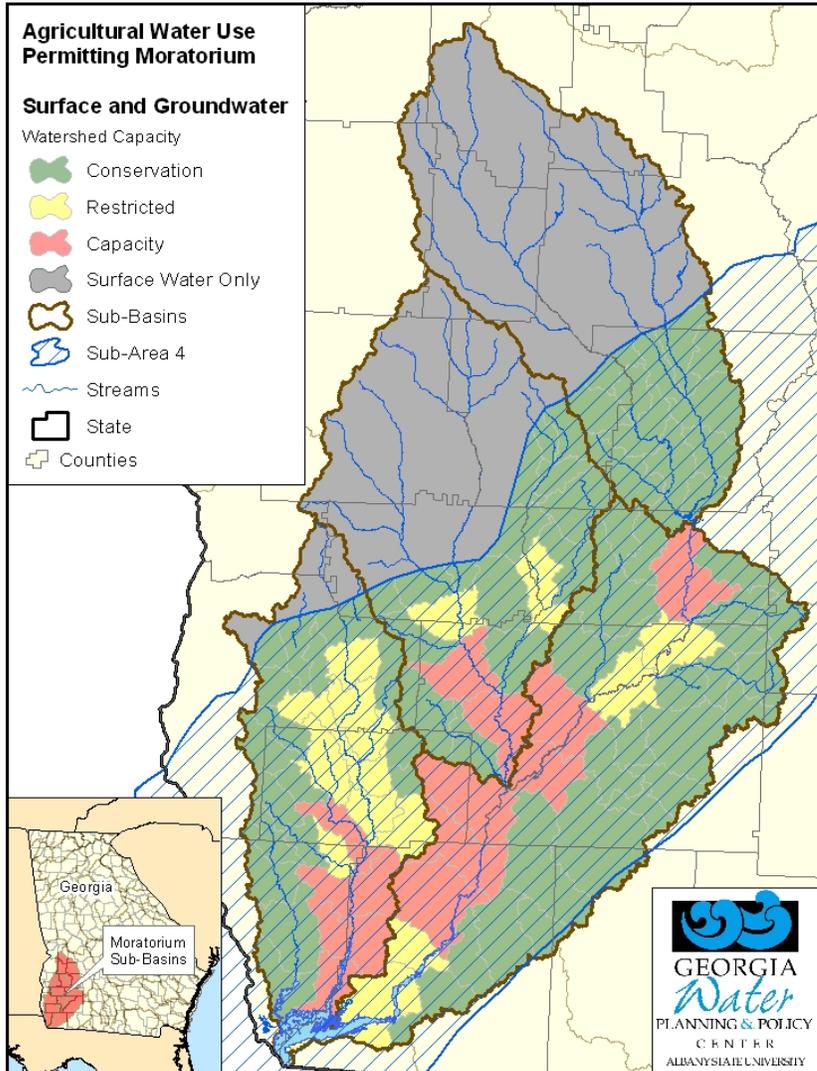
# Over here...



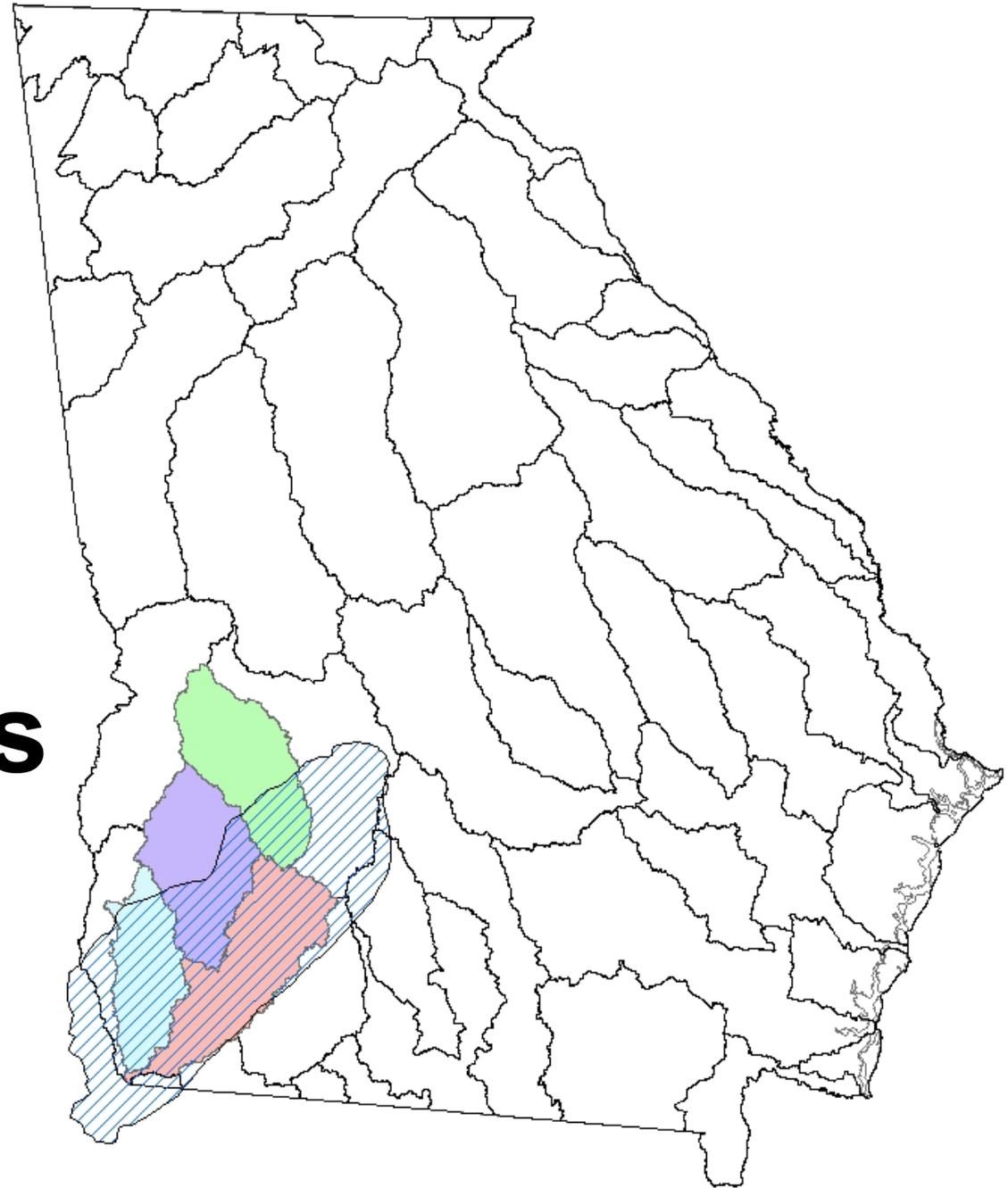
The Sustainable Irrigation Expansion Watershed Planning (PL-566) project seeks to increase the number of irrigated agricultural acres in Alabama that benefits rural communities and minimizes impacts to environmental, historical, and cultural resources.

The USDA NRCS oversees implementation of the project that includes on-farm evaluations and the Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee serves as the sponsoring local organization. Auburn University and the University of Alabama in Huntsville develop the plans to assist in prioritization of farms for sustainable irrigation expansion.

# Over here...

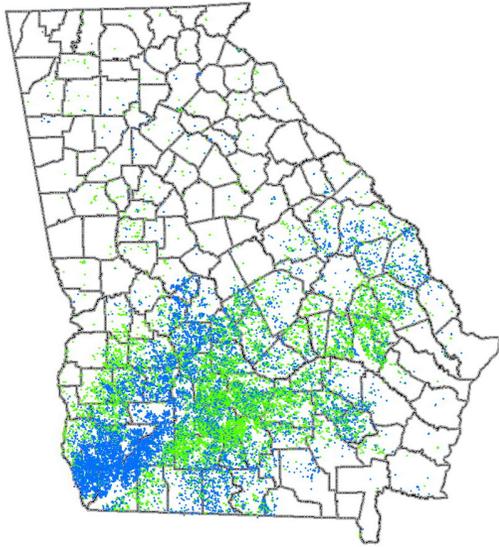


# No New Permits

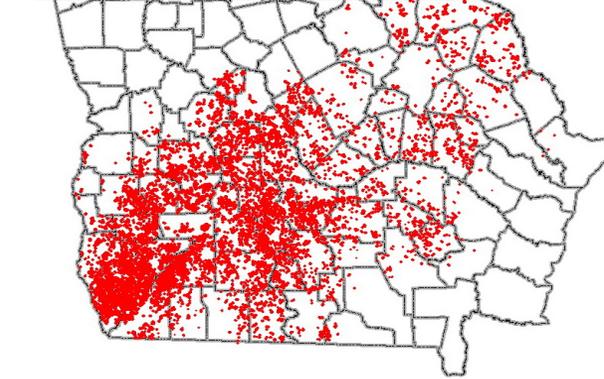




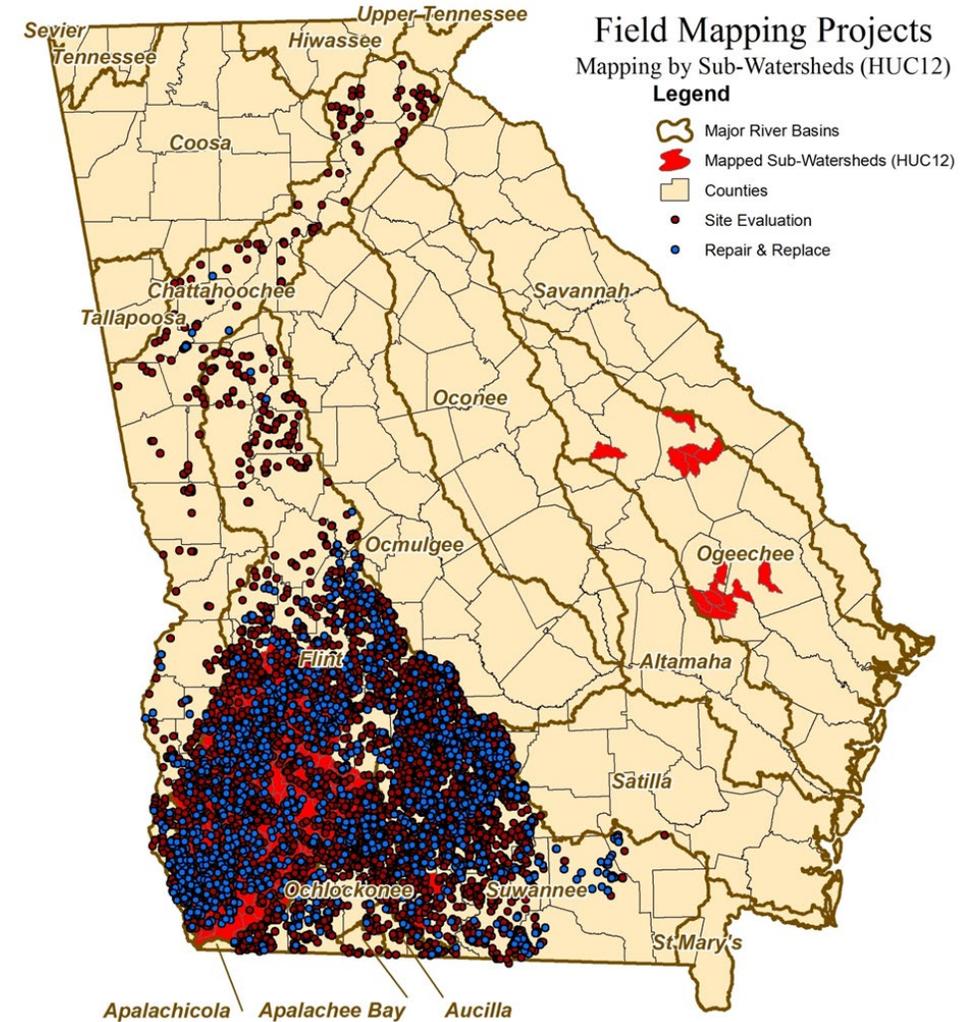
# Permitting



# Metering



# Data Collection



# Planning

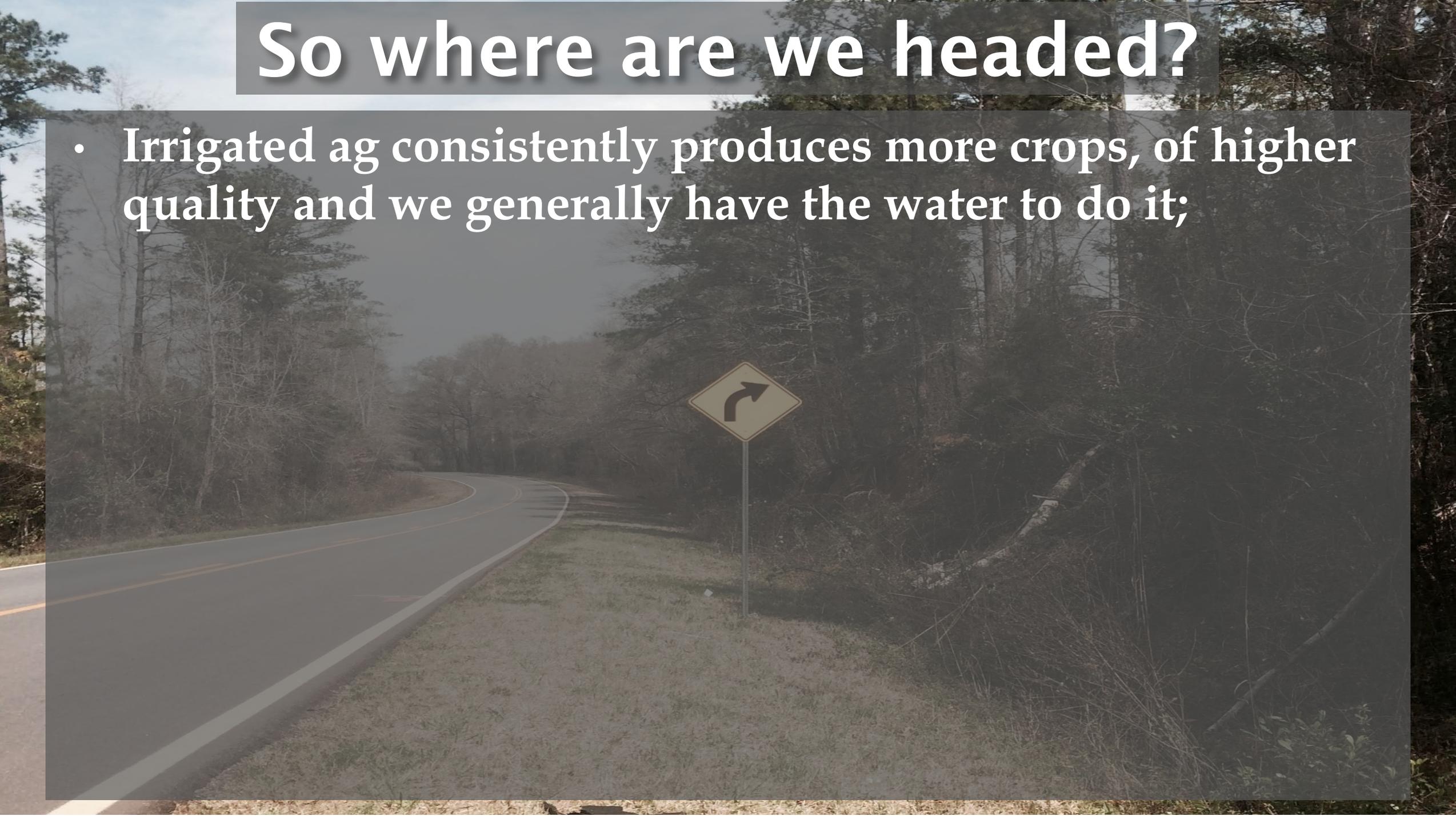


So where are we headed?

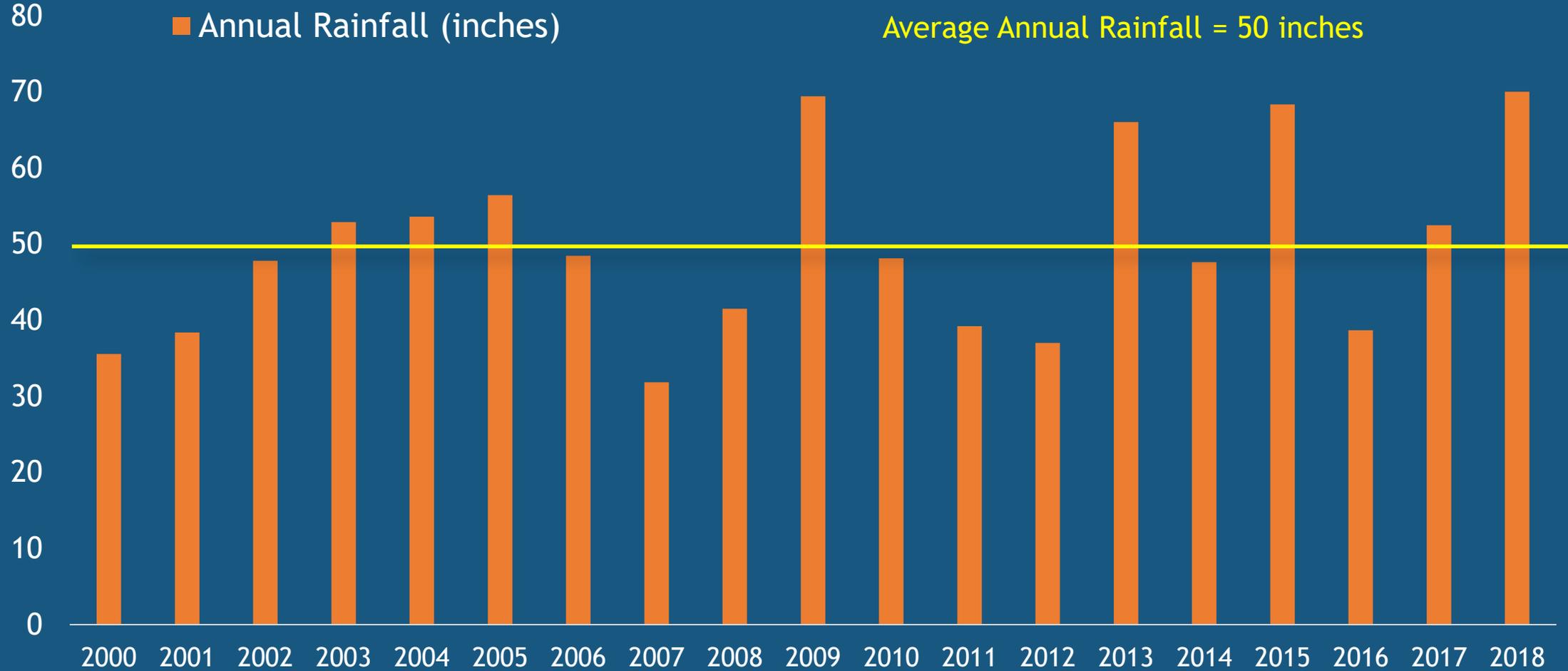


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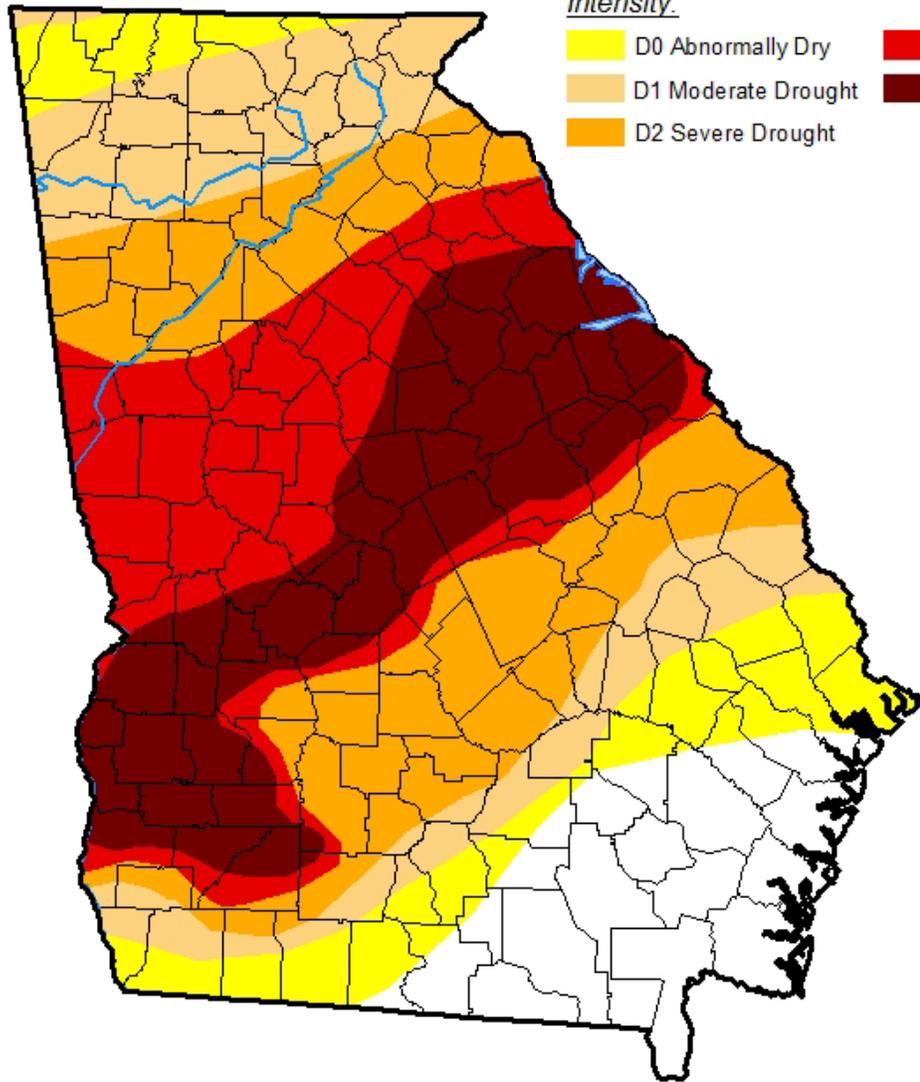
- Irrigated ag consistently produces more crops, of higher quality and we generally have the water to do it;



# Cycles of Floods and Droughts



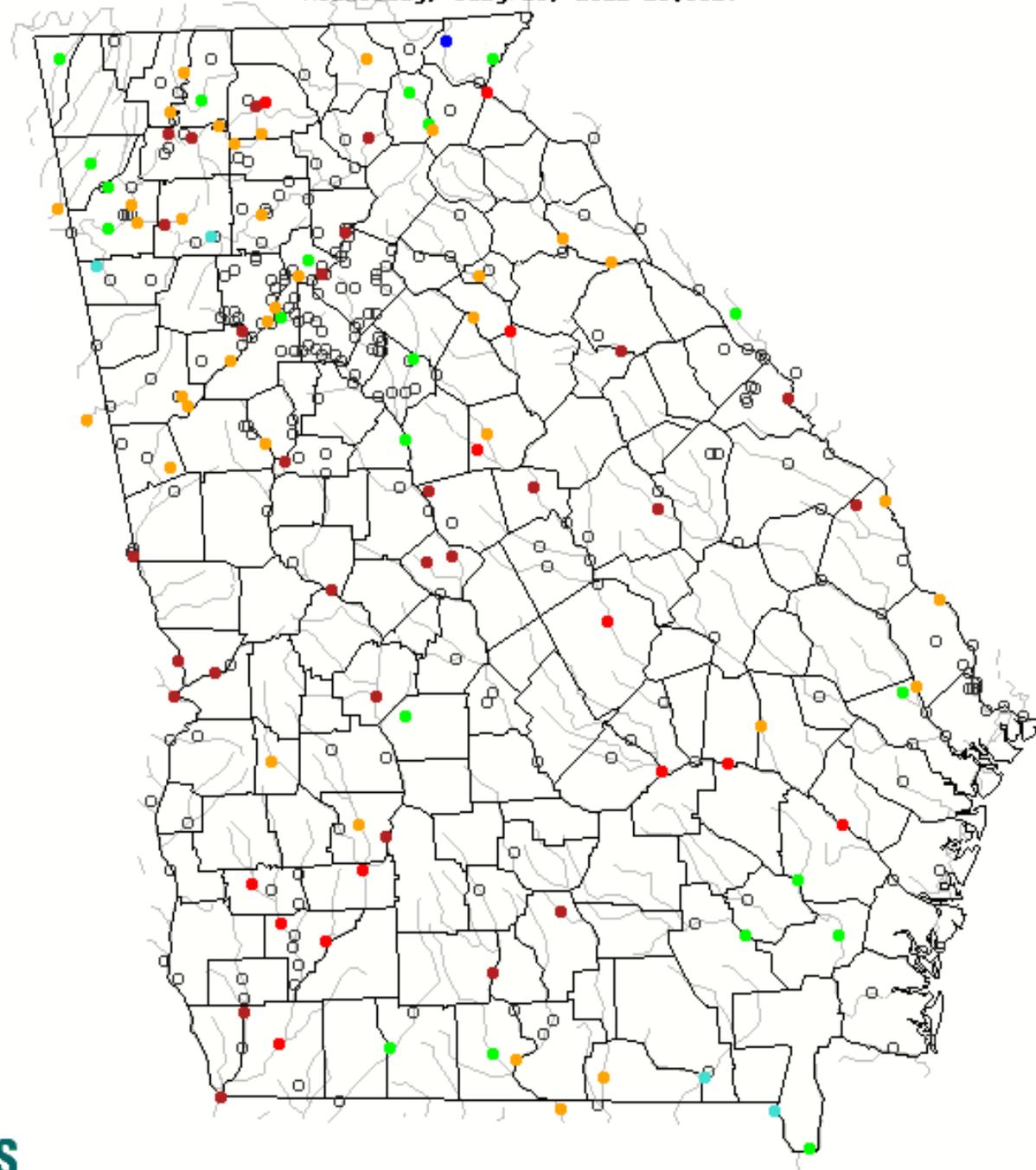
# U.S. Drought Monitor Georgia



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

Wednesday, July 18, 2012 15:30ET

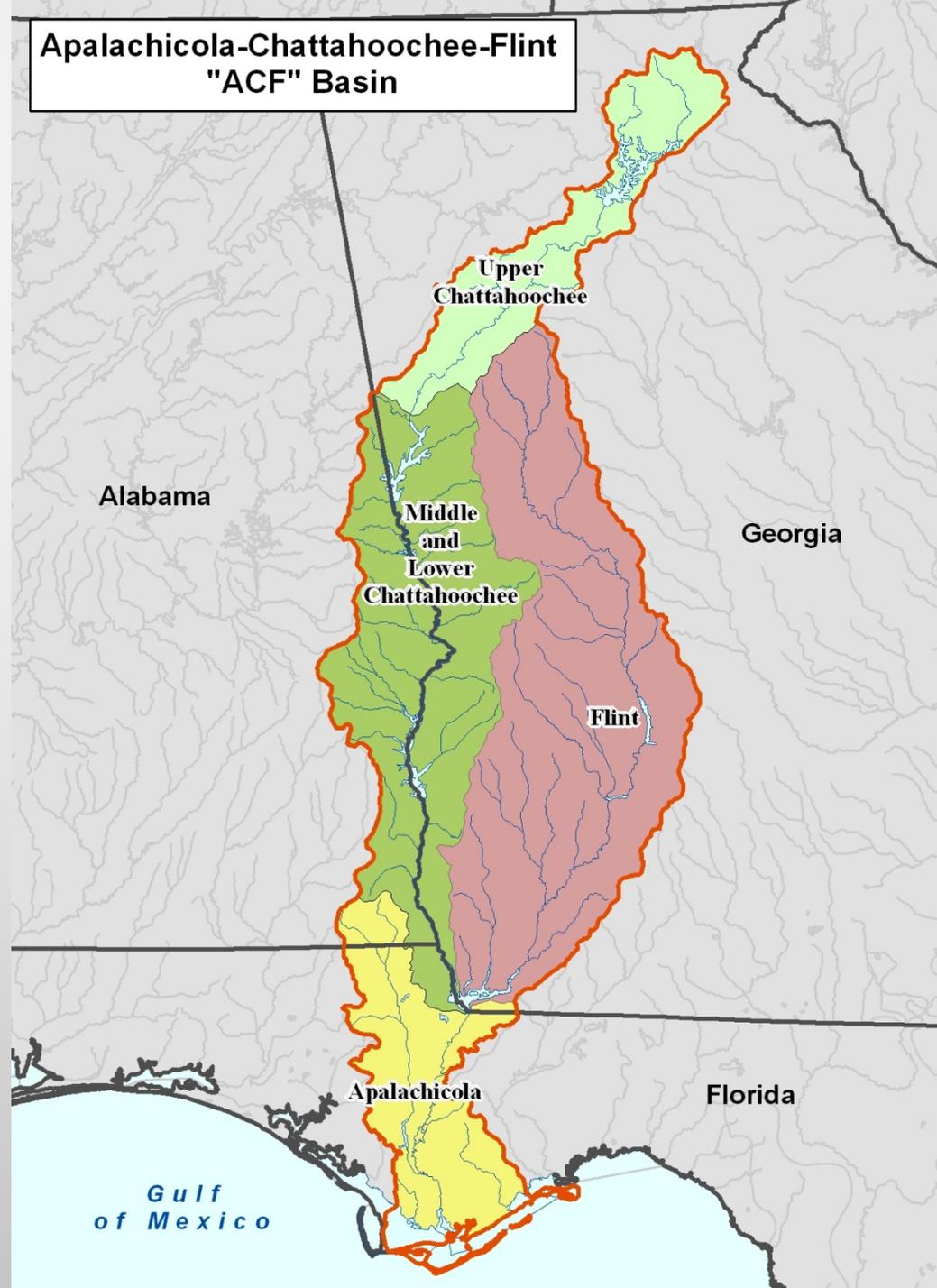


# So where are we headed?

- Irrigated ag consistently produces more crops, of higher quality and we generally have the water to do it;
- Irrigation doesn't happen in a vacuum, ag water policy development won't either;



**Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint  
"ACF" Basin**



Alabama

Georgia

Apalachicola

Florida

Gulf  
of Mexico

Upper  
Chattahoochee

Middle  
and  
Lower  
Chattahoochee

Flint

# Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint "ACF" Basin



Alabam

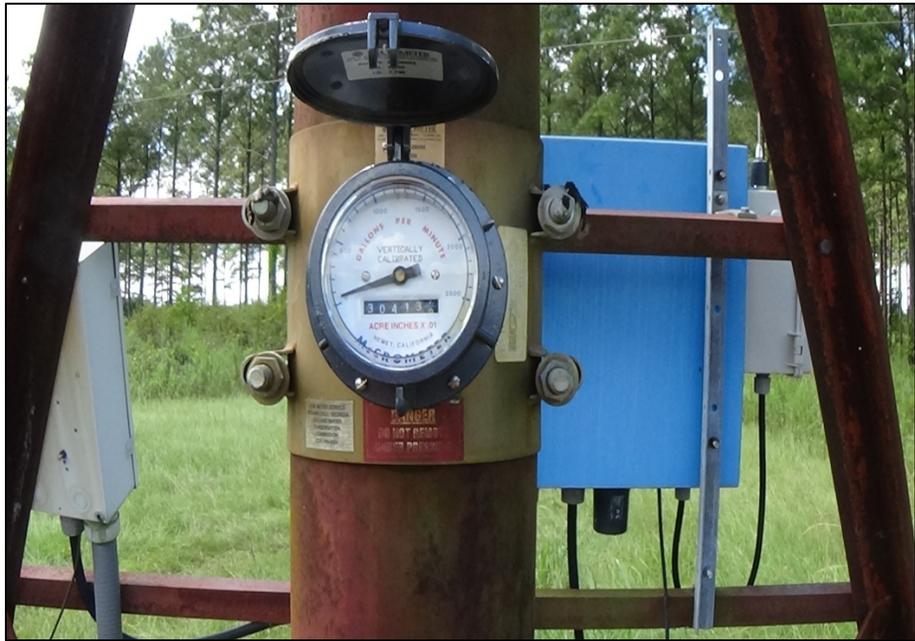
Lower  
Chattahoochee

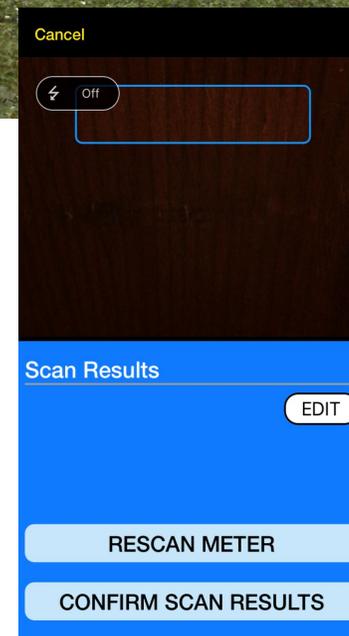
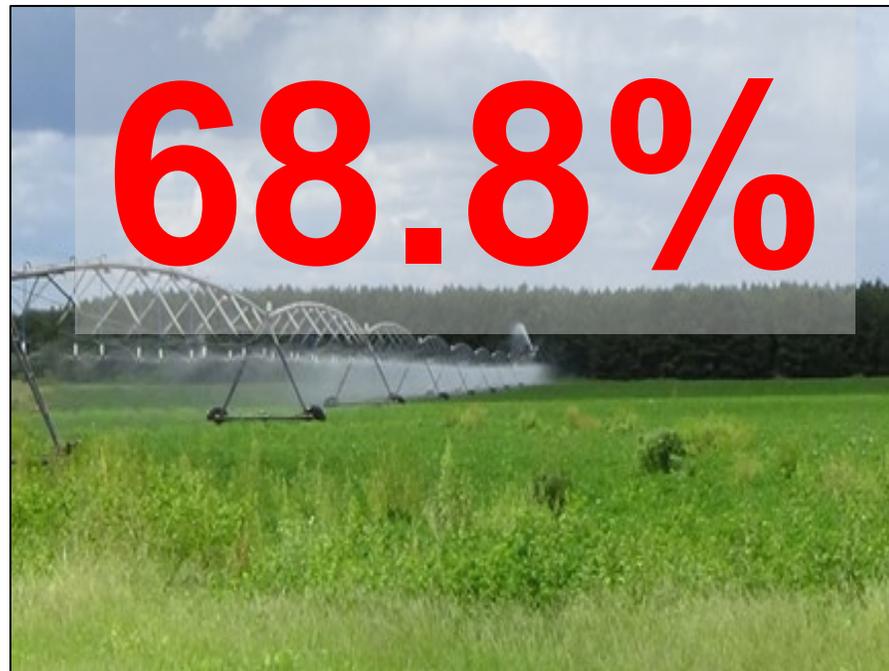
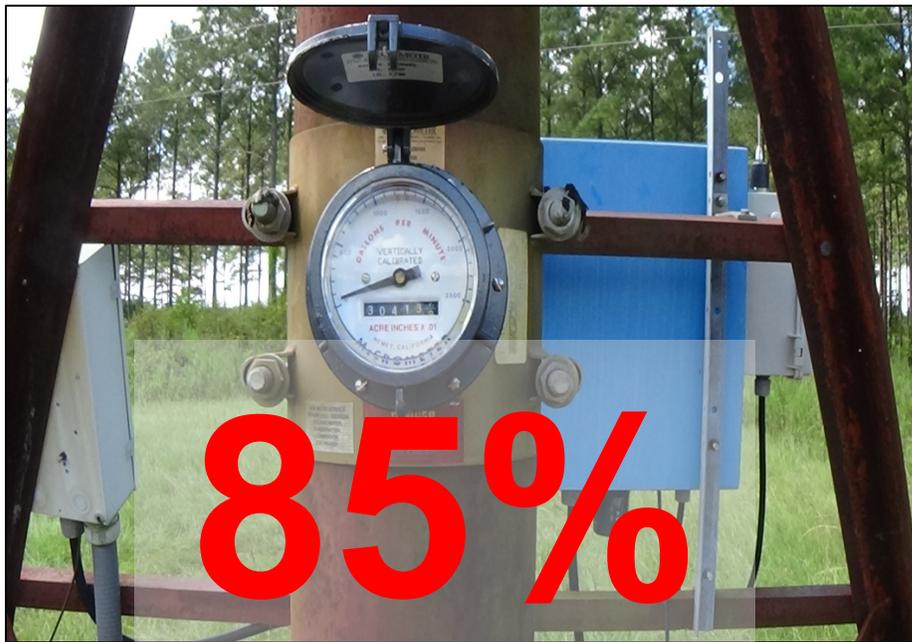


Gulf  
of Mexico

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- Opportunity for policy innovations is ripe;

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- Opportunity for policy innovations is ripe;
- Resiliency of SE agriculture and SE ecosystems are not mutually exclusive;

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- Opportunity for policy innovations is ripe;
- Resiliency of SE agriculture and SE ecosystems are not mutually exclusive;
- Stakeholders are engaged and work is underway;

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- There's a foundation of innovation on which to build
- Opportunity for policy innovations is ripe;
- Resiliency of SE agriculture and SE ecosystems are not mutually exclusive;
- Stakeholders are engaged and work is underway;
- Let's try to avoid...



*Discussing Water Rights, A Western Pastime*