

# The 2016, 2017 (&2018?) Drought

**Katherine Zitsch**

Natural Resources Division Manager - Atlanta Regional Commission

March 21, 2017

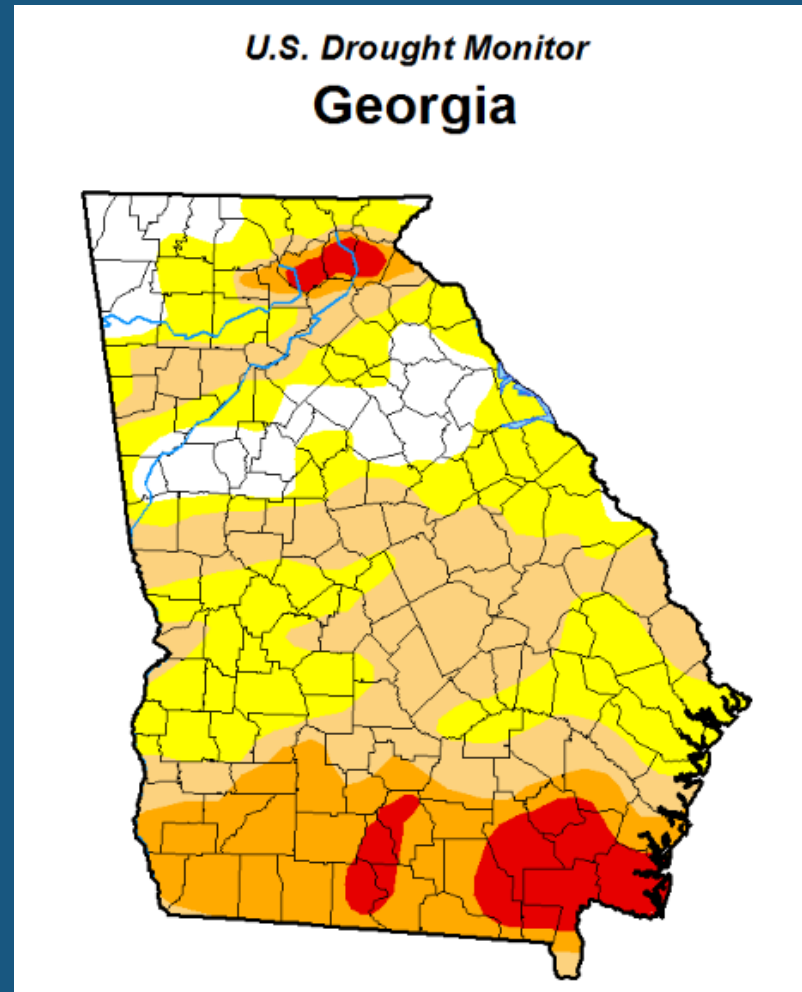


# Drought

## State Drought Response

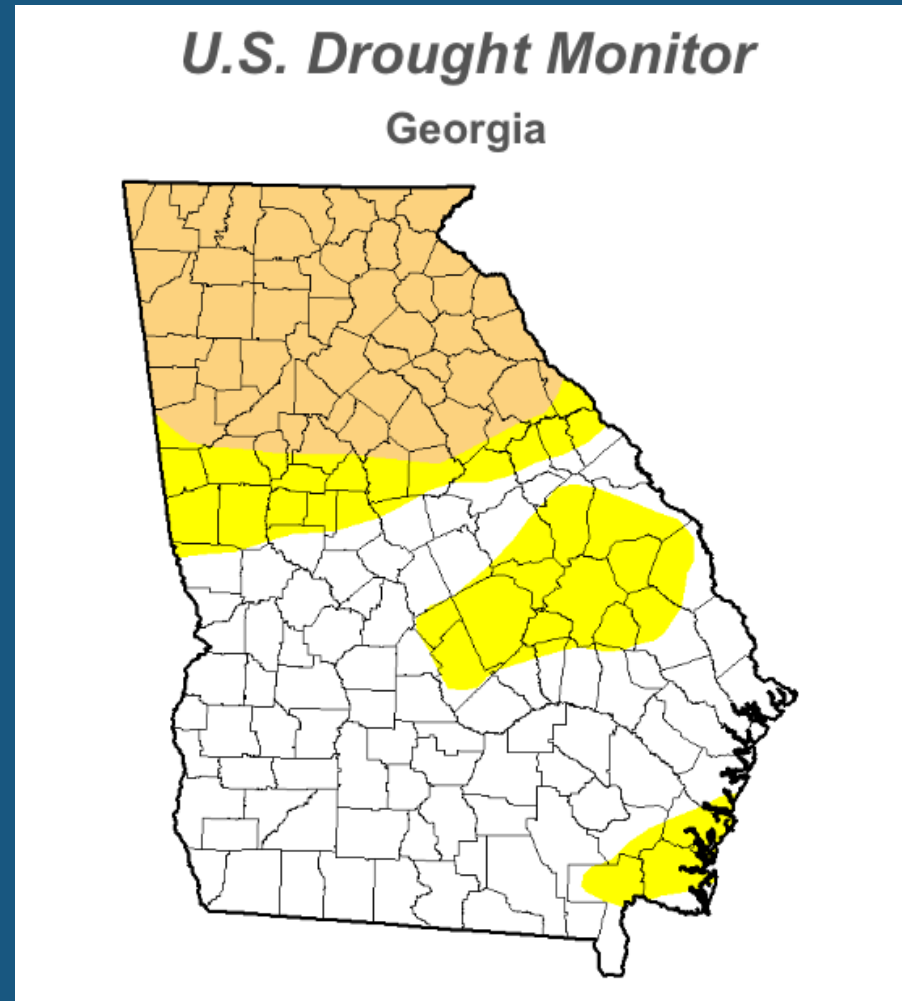


# Northern Georgia in Abnormally Dry to Extreme Drought



May 16, 2017

# One Year Ago Northern Georgia in Abnormally Dry to Moderate Drought



May 17, 2016



# Lake Lanier



# What's Going On?



Source: Weather.com (05-13-17)



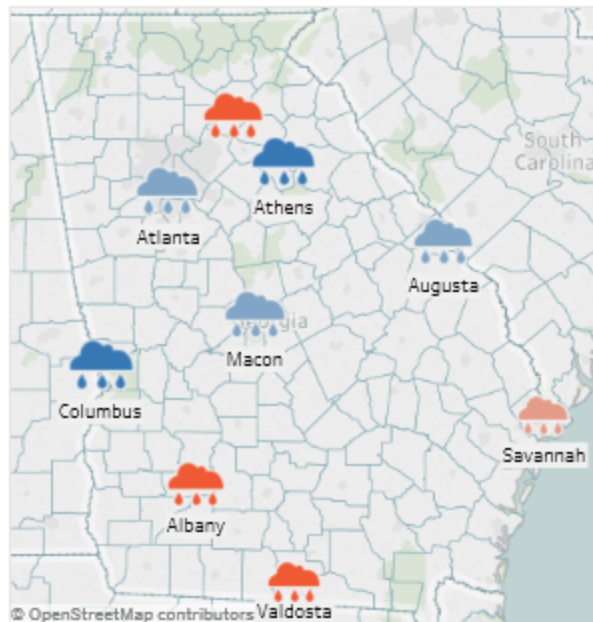
# What's Going On?

## Tracking Rainfall Throughout Georgia

While much of the state has received above-normal precipitation (normal is defined as an average over the past 30-years), much of the metro region remains in drought. Winter rains have failed to refill Lake Lanier, which remains about eight feet below full pool.

Georgia rainfall

### Tracking rainfall throughout Georgia

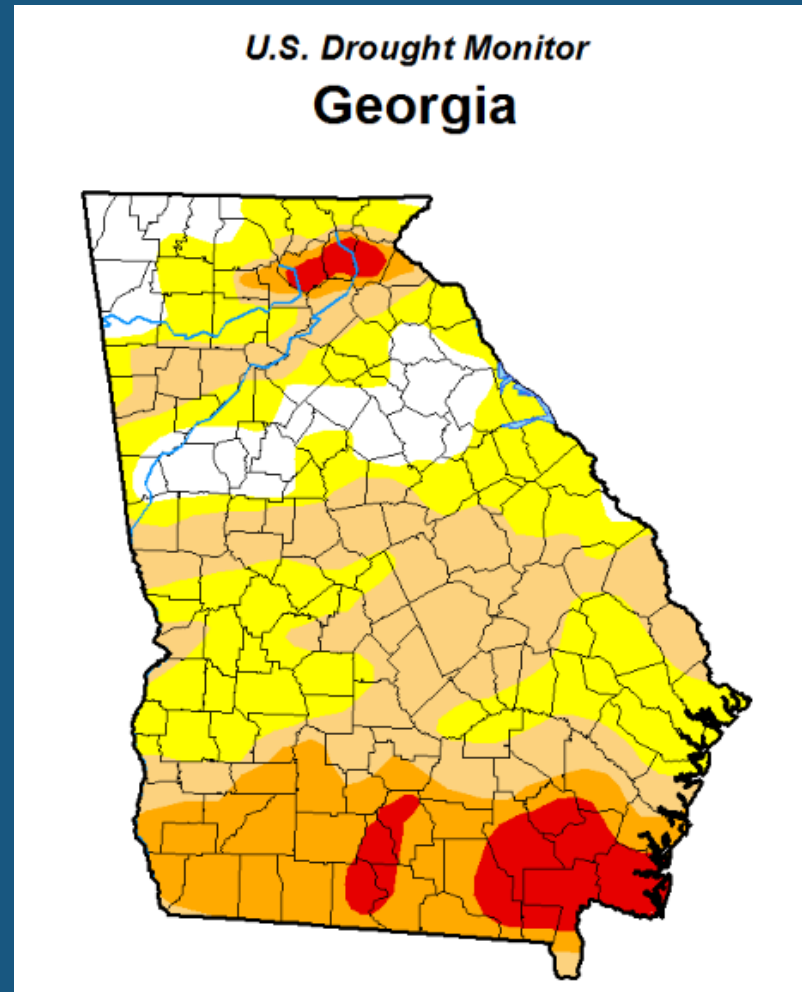


These tools show rainfall amounts for rain gauge stations throughout Georgia. While much of the state has received above-normal\* precipitation, much of the metro region remains in drought. Winter rains have failed to refill Lake Lanier, which remains about eight feet below full pool.

\*These data looks at rainfall from January 1, 2017 to April 30, 2017, with normal defined as a 30-year average for this same time period.

Departure from normal\*  
-3.02 3.02

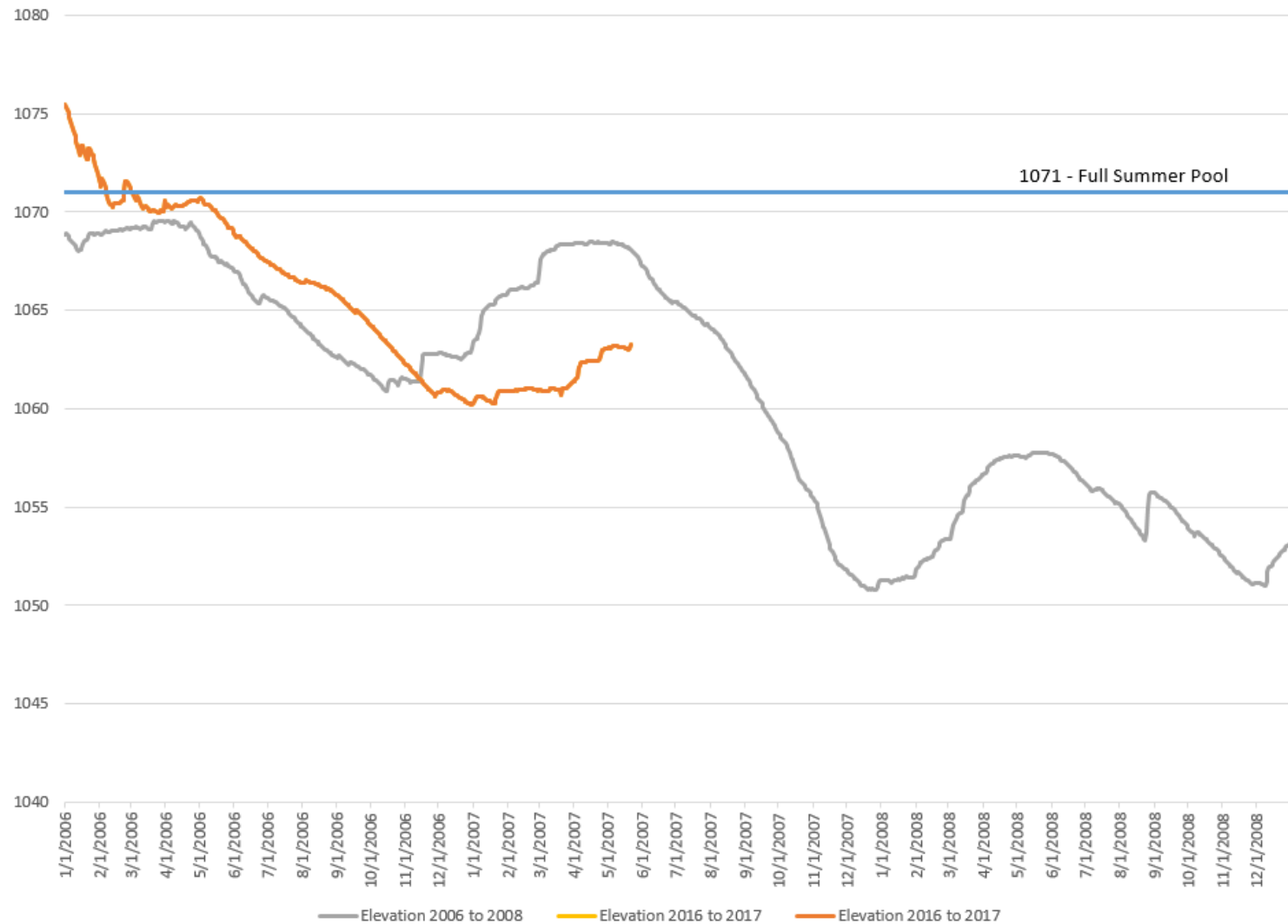
# 2016/2017 Lowest Inflow on Record for Period from October - April



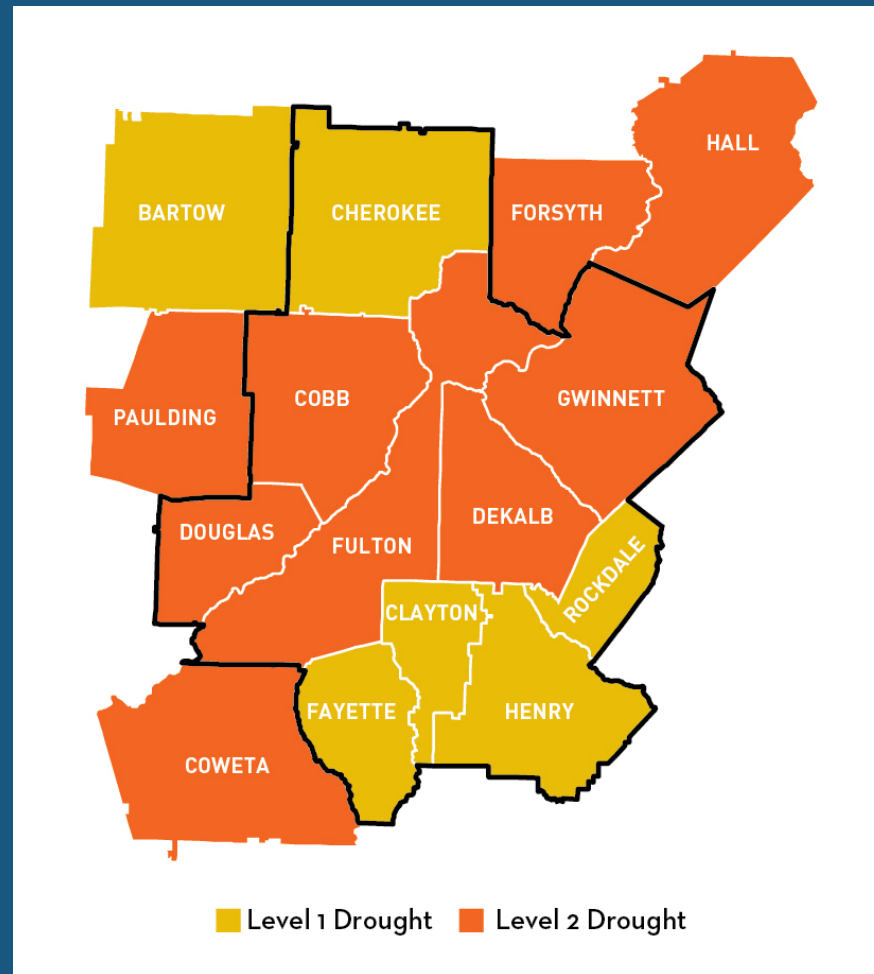
May 16, 2017



# Lake Lanier Elevation 2016-2017







# Metro District is in Drought Response Levels 1 and 2



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?GA>

# What Does this Mean to Me? (And My Utility?)

## Outdoor Watering Restrictions for lawns, gardens and trees

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 ODD			 EVEN	 ODD		 EVEN

- Water only as needed, up to **twice a week** (even addresses and sites with no numbered address on Wednesday or Saturday and odd addresses on Thursday or Sunday)
- Only after **4 PM** and before **10 AM**

# What Does this Mean to Me? (And My Utility?)

This area is currently  
experiencing a drought.

**We're helping to CONSERVE.**

**Water served upon request.**

#DroughtATL



[northgeorgiawater.org](http://northgeorgiawater.org)

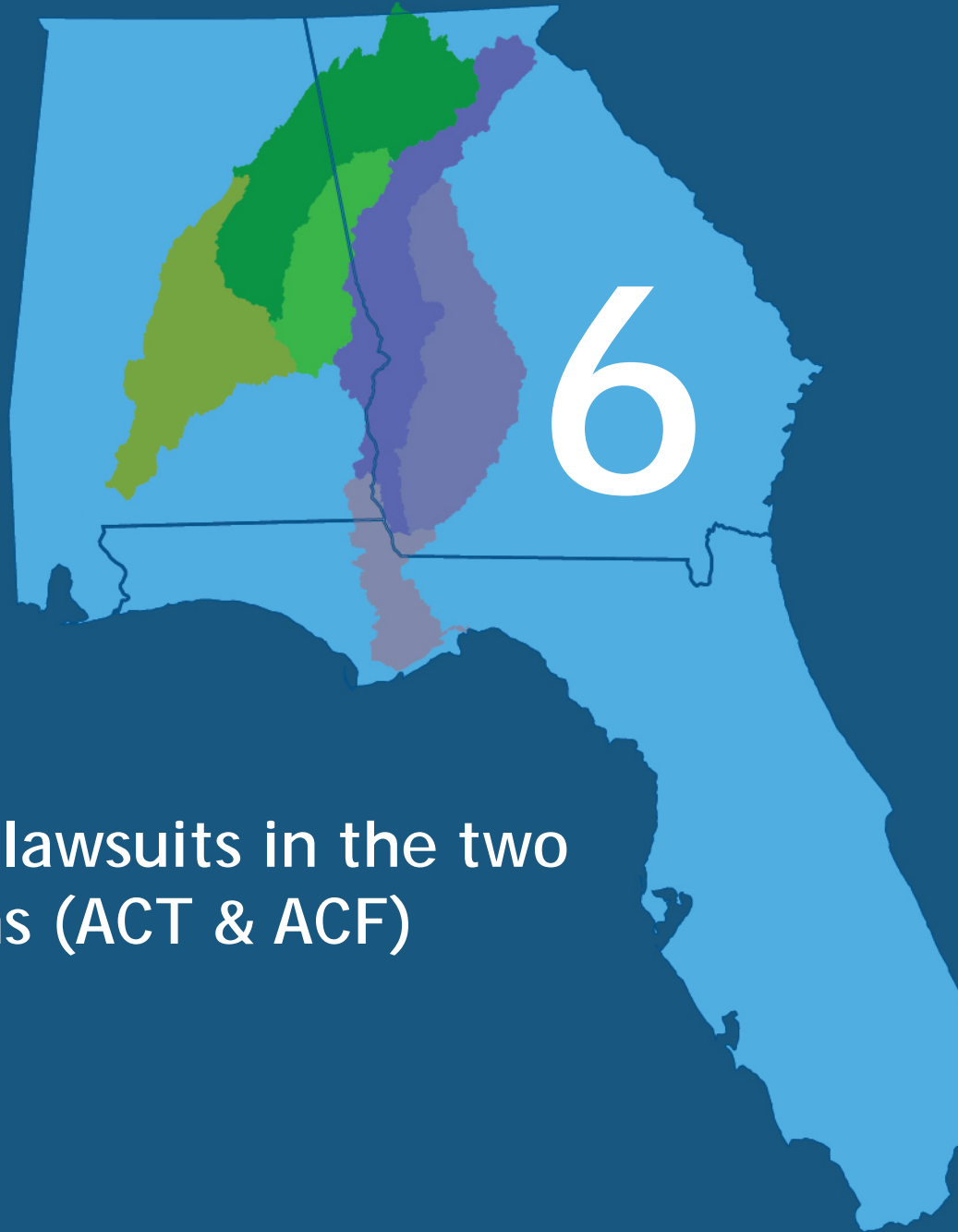


# What Does this Mean to Me? (And My Utility?)



Help Us Get the  
Word Out!





Six active lawsuits in the two  
basins (ACT & ACF)

# Three Active ACT Lawsuits

- Georgia, ARC & CCMWA v. US Army Corps of Engineers
- Alabama v. US Army Corps of Engineers
- CCMWA v. US Army Corps of Engineers



# Three Active ACF Lawsuits

- Florida v. Georgia, No. 142 Original (US Supreme Court)
- Alabama v. US Army Corps of Engineers
- National Wildlife Federation v. US Army Corps of Engineers
  - Plaintiffs also include the Florida Wildlife Federation, and the Apalachicola Bay and River Keeper
  - Represented by Earth Justice (the group formerly known as Sierra Club Legal Defense)

... And, of course, Congress...



[kzitsch@atlantaregional.com](mailto:kzitsch@atlantaregional.com)