

**Weather:**

Current forecasts indicate equal chances of below average or above average rain in the Apalachicola Chattahoochee Flint (ACF) river basin over the next two weeks. However, due to persisting dry conditions, an increase in lake levels is not expected. Temperatures over much of the Mobile District are forecast to remain below average for the next two weeks.

The one month forecast from the National Weather Service (NWS) Climate Prediction Center, also indicates equal chances of below or above average rainfall for the entire month of May. Figure 1 reflects the percent of normal rainfall over the next week.

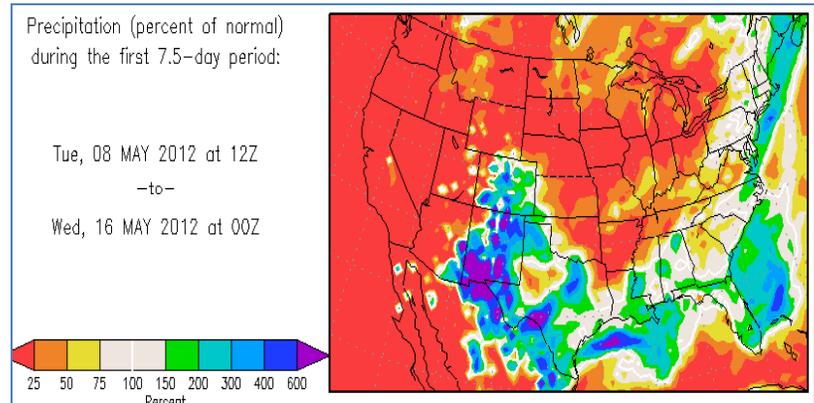


Figure 1. Weekly precipitation outlook from the National Center of Environmental Prediction (<http://wxmaps.org/pix/prec1.html>).

**Lake Lanier (Buford Dam):**

Lake Lanier is currently near elevation 1064.7 feet and is forecasted to be near 1064.3 feet by the end of May. The lake is currently at the top of zone 4 and is forecast to remain in zone 4 through May. The lake is dropping at an average rate of about 0.20 feet a week as storage from Lanier is utilized to meet downstream requirements including water quality in Atlanta, balancing system storage at West Point and Walter F. George, and supporting the Jim Woodruff minimum release. Local inflows into Lake Lanier have averaged just 967 cfs or 47% of normal in the month of May. The 14-day average historical streamflow at the Cornelia gage upstream of Lake Lanier is in the 8<sup>th</sup> percentile.

**West Point Lake:**

West Point Lake is currently near elevation 629.8 feet and is expected to be near elevation 629.3 feet by the end of May. West Point is also at the top of zone 4 and is forecast to remain in zone 4 through May. 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 average around 1,700 cfs over the next week. Local inflows into West Point have averaged 469 cfs or 15% of normal in the month of May. The 14-day average historical streamflow at the Whitesburg gage upstream of West Point is in the 11<sup>th</sup> percentile.

**Walter F. George Reservoir:**

Walter F. George Reservoir is currently near elevation 186.4 feet and is expected to be near elevation 186.2 feet by the end of May. Walter F. George is currently near the middle of zone 4 and is forecast to remain in zone 4 through May. 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 2,000 cfs over the next week. Local inflows into Walter F. George have averaged 116 cfs or 4% of normal for the month of May.

### Lake Seminole (Jim Woodruff Dam):

Lake Seminole is currently near elevation 76.6 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 76.3 and 76.6 feet in May. The Corps is currently releasing near 5,000 cfs from Jim Woodruff Dam in accordance with the Revised Interim Operations Plan (RIOP). Releases are expected to remain near 5,000 cfs in the coming weeks. Local inflows into Jim Woodruff have averaged about 2,900 cfs or 25% of normal for May.

### Basin Wide Conditions:

Drought conditions in the ACF basin have continued to intensify with below average inflows into all the ACF reservoirs and with stream gages on the Flint River reporting record low flows for this time of year. As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, the Corps has begun drought

operations as described in the 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. The current ACF Basin composite conservation storage is in zone 4. Composite conservation storage is the summation of the remaining conservation storage in Lake Lanier, West Point Lake and, Walter F. George Reservoir. Figure 2 reflects the current conservation storage conditions and

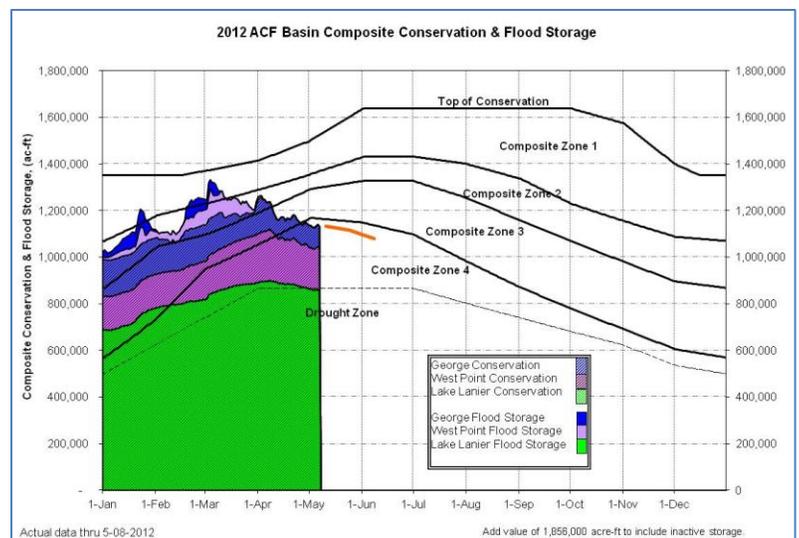


Figure 2. ACF Composite Conservation Storage five week forecast. Without above average rainfall, the composite conservation storage is forecasted to remain in zone 4 and continue declining through the month of May.

### 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>