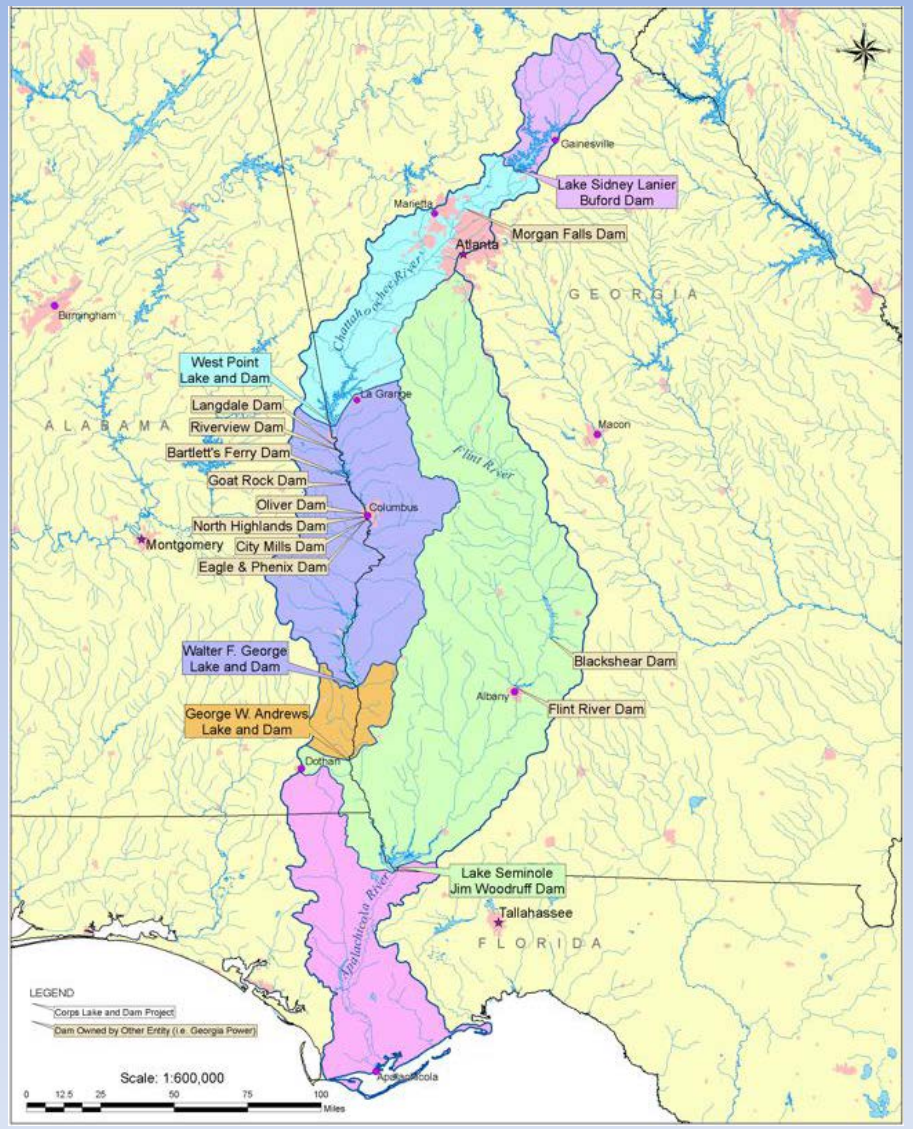
National Integrated Drought Information System

Drought Early Warning for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin

22 September 2015



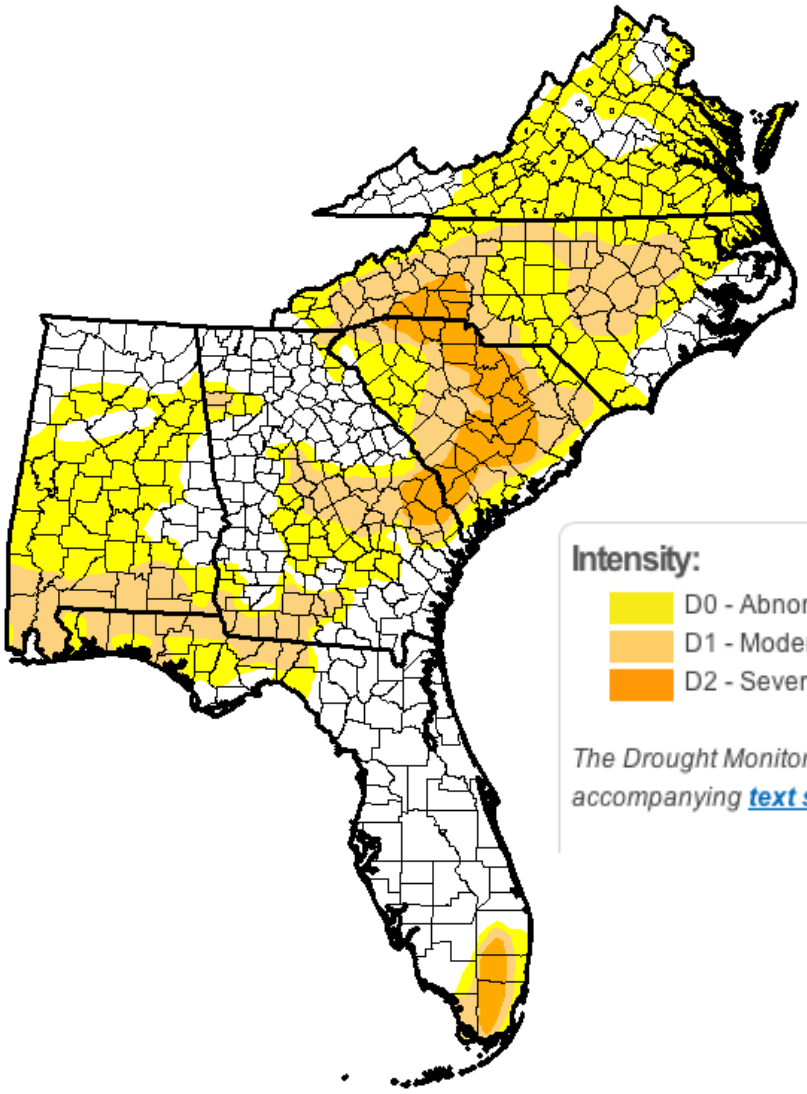
NATIONAL INTEGRATED DROUGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM

Outline

Welcome – Eric Reutebuch, AU Water Resources Center

- Current drought status, seasonal forecasts and outlooks – David Zierden, Florida Climate Center, FSU
- Streamflows and groundwater – Paul Ankcorn, USGS
- Streamflow forecasts – Jeff Dobur, SERFC
- Summary and Discussion

Current drought status



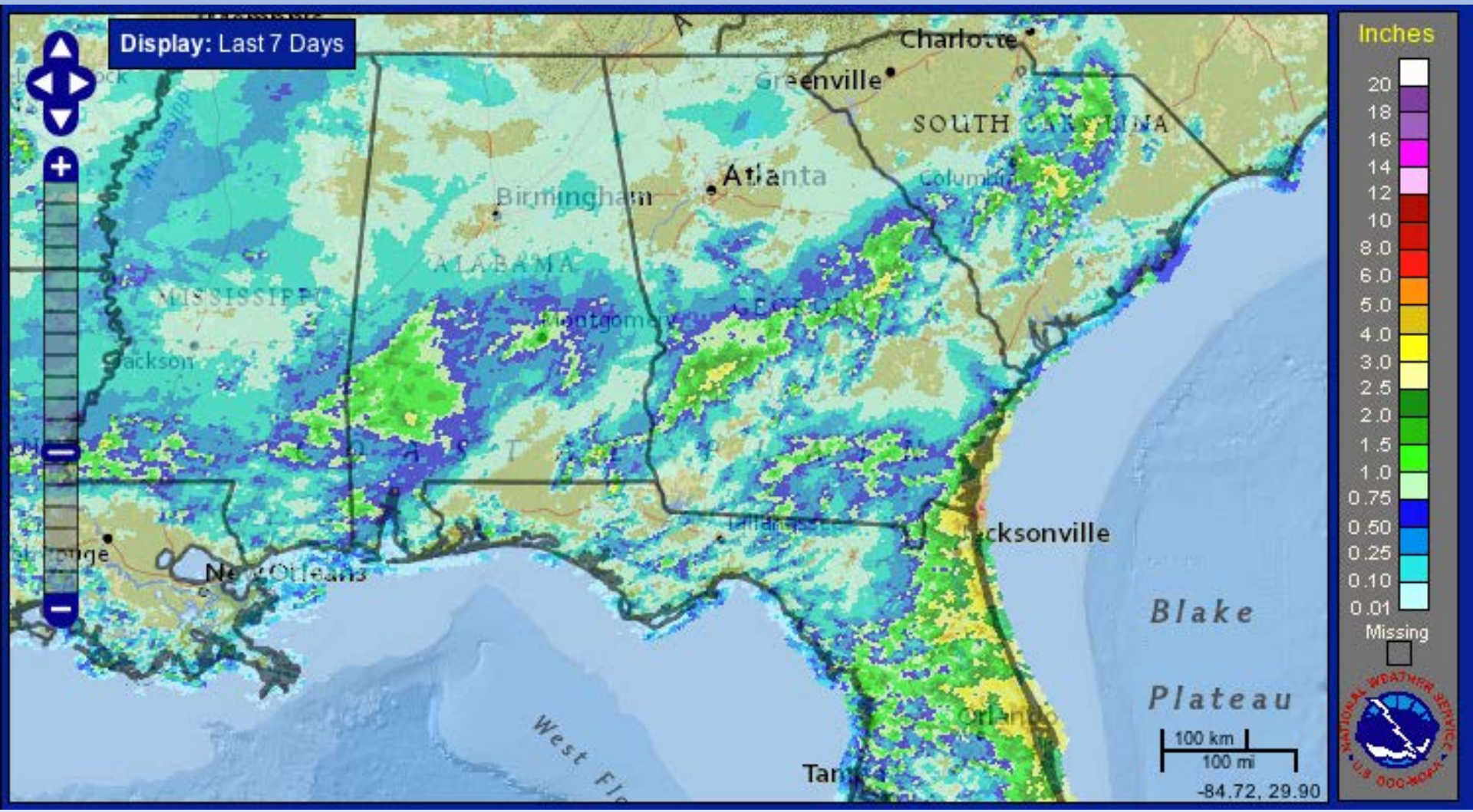
Intensity:

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

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying **text summary** for forecast statements.*

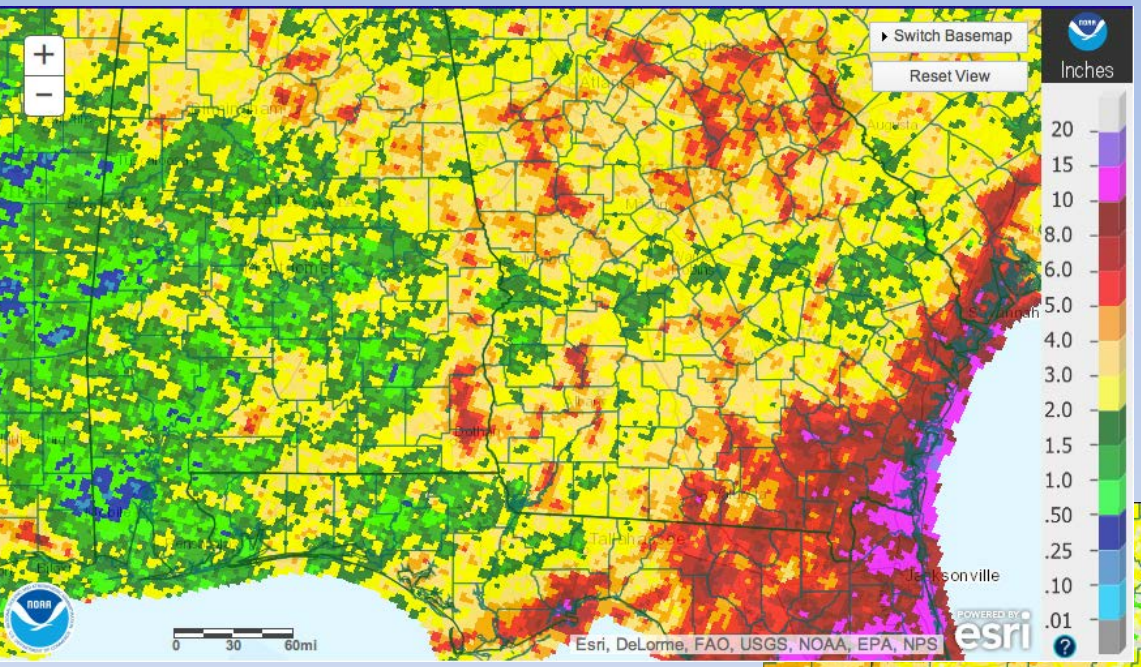
Harvest Season

Rainfall – Last 7 Days

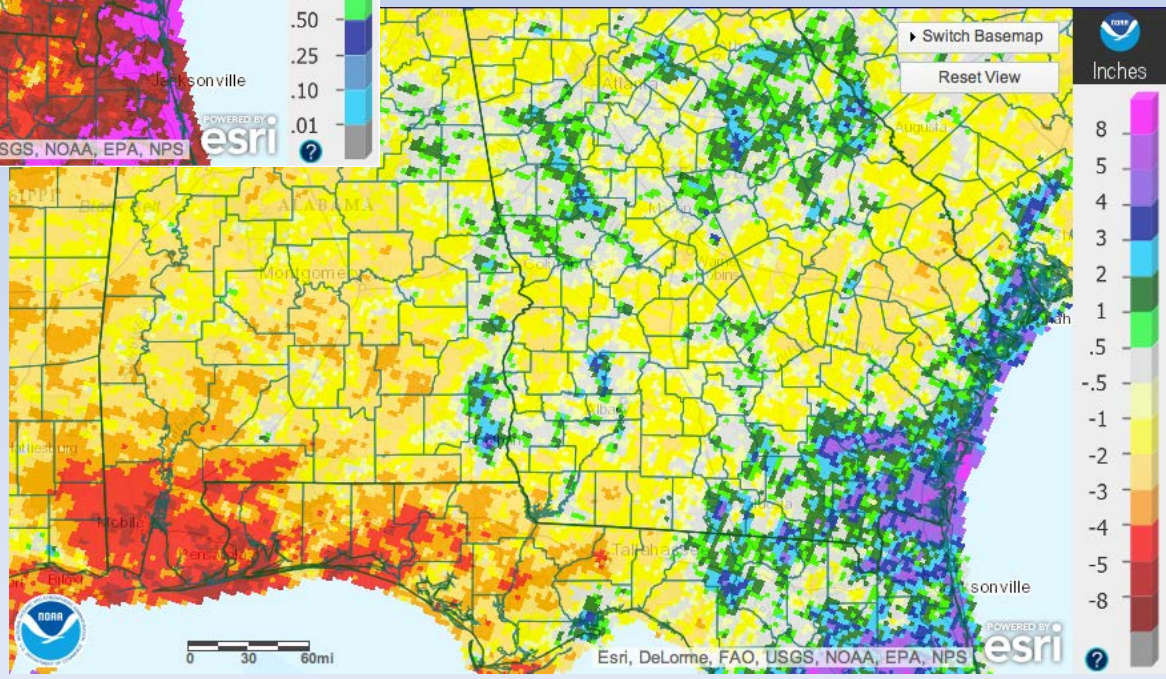


30-Day Rainfall

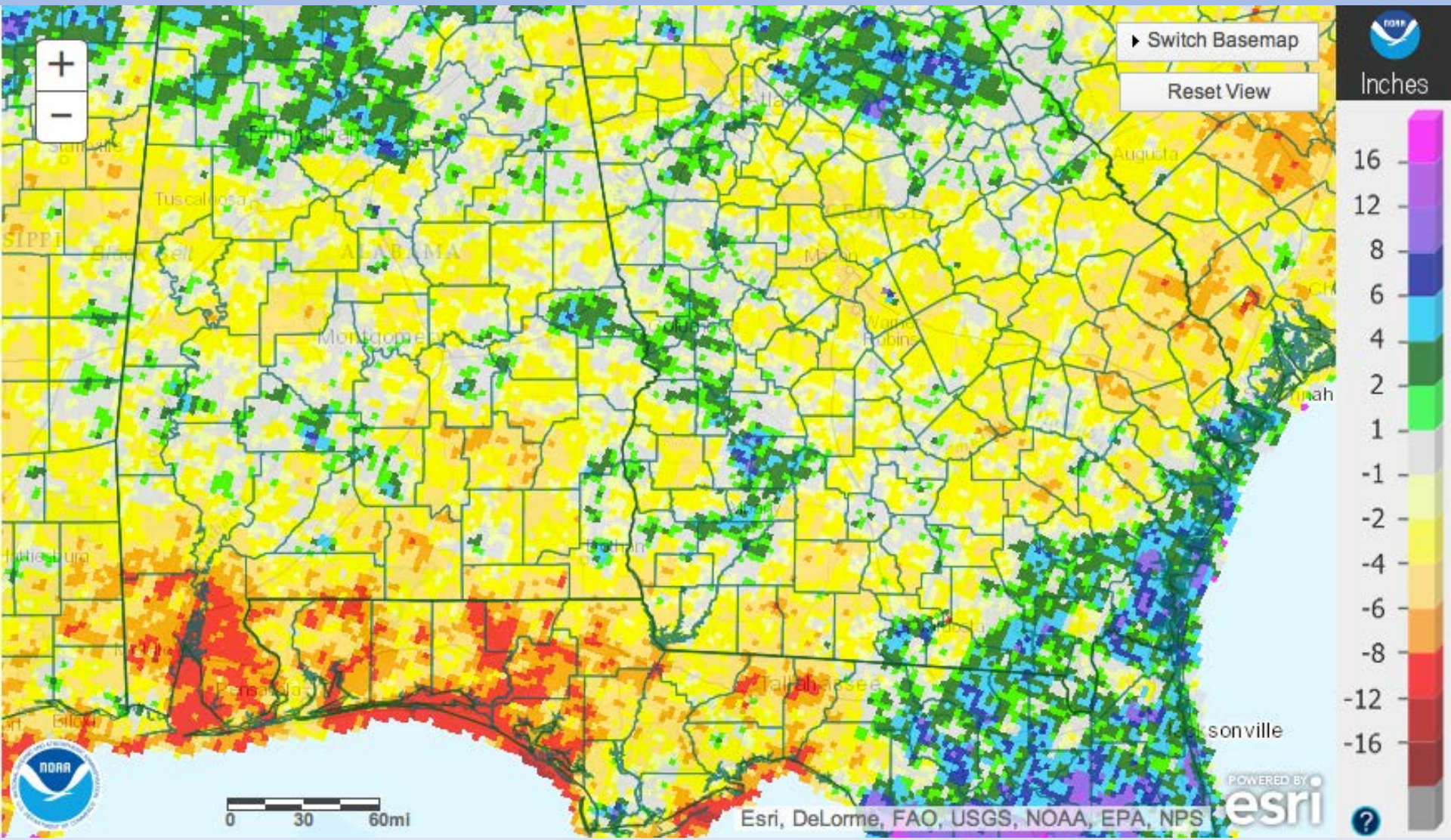
Totals



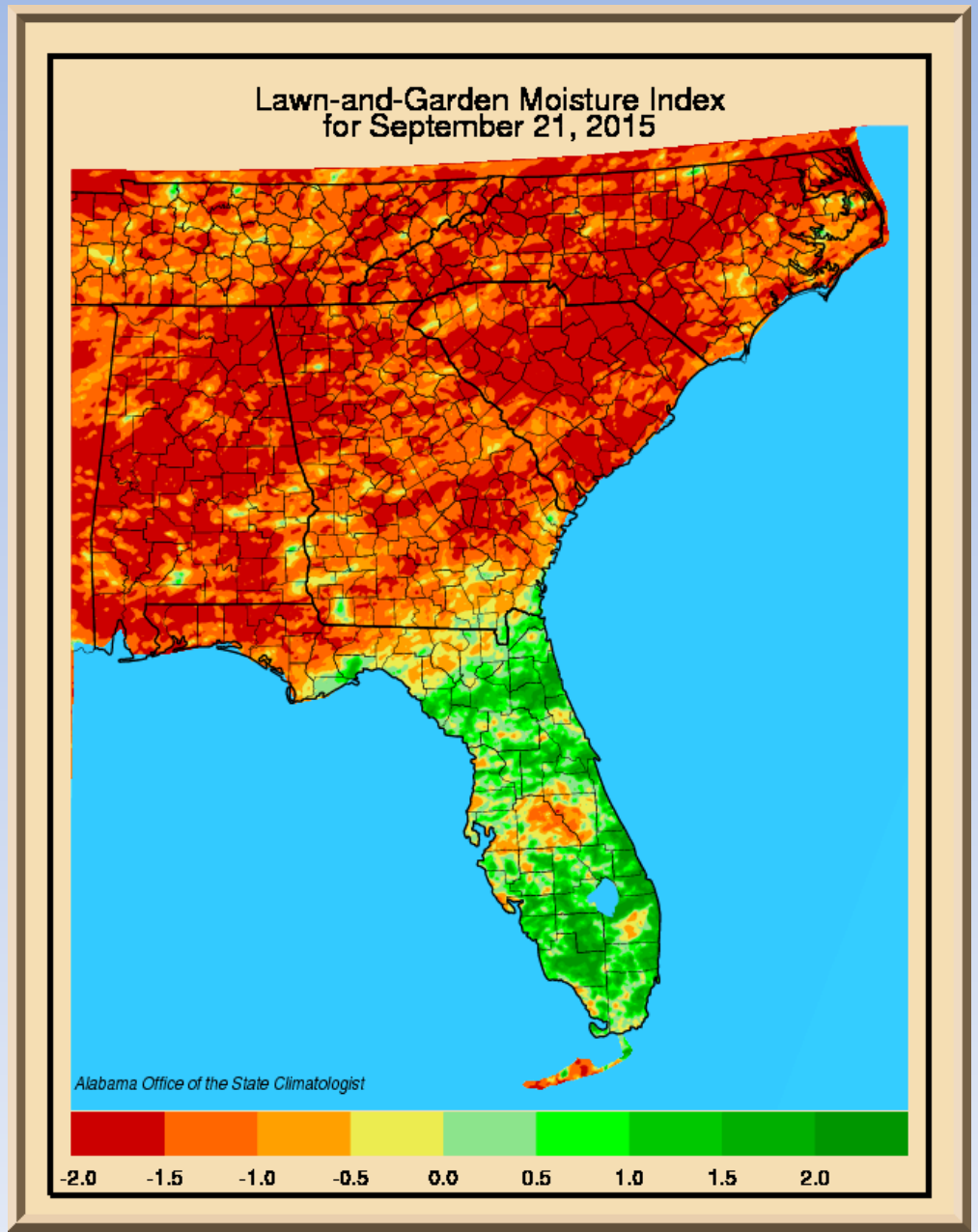
Departure from Normal



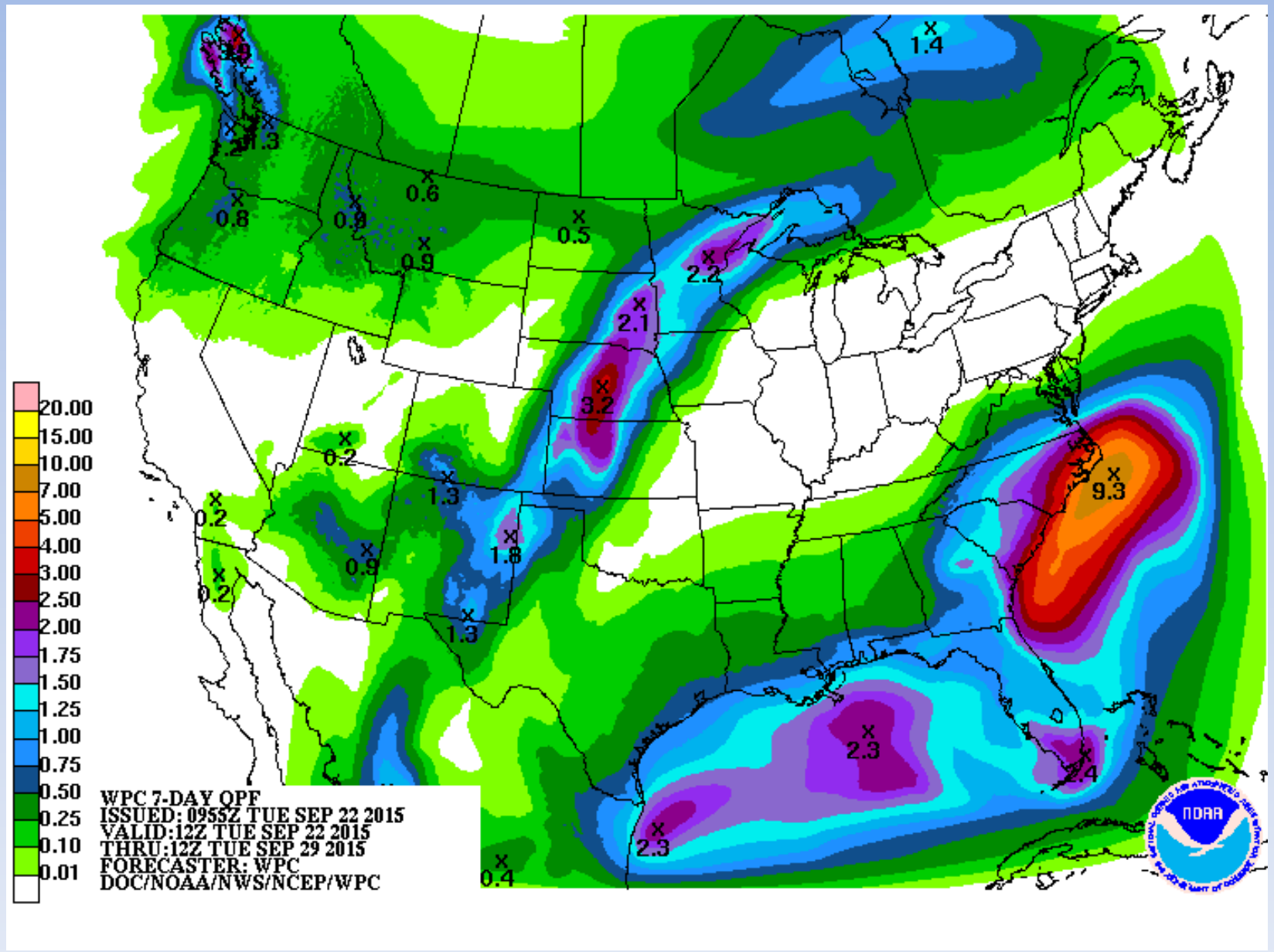
90-day Rainfall Departures



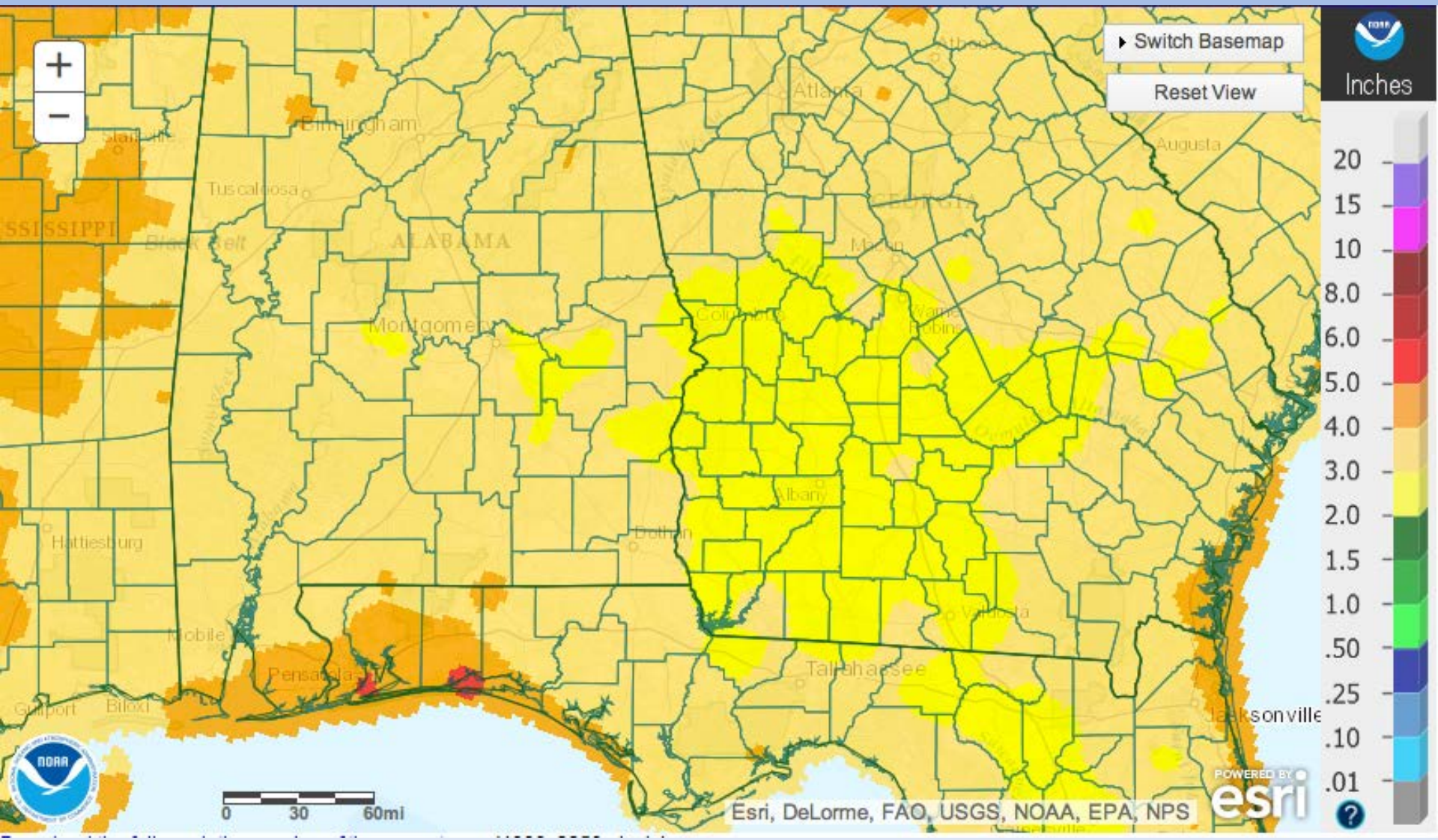
Lawn and Garden Moisture Index



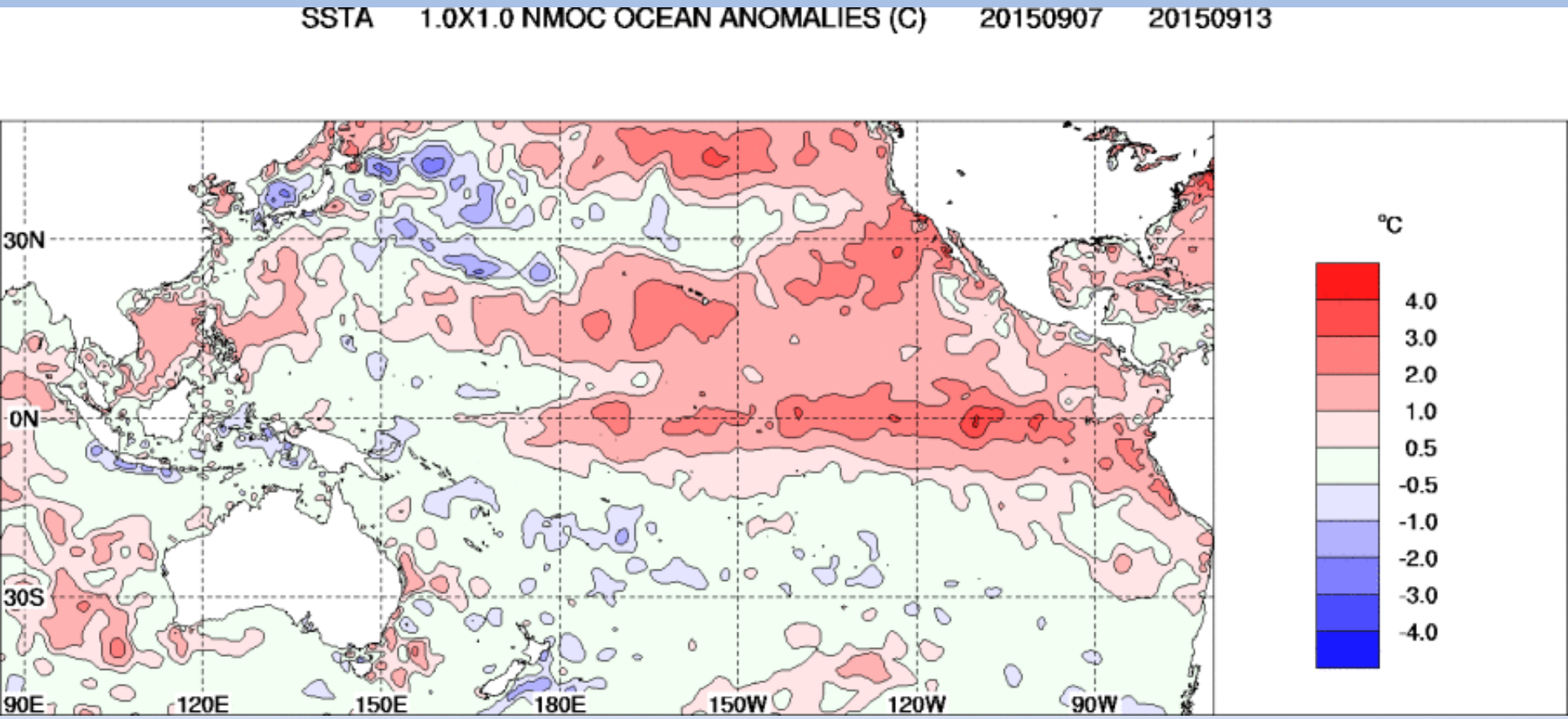
7-Day Precipitation Forecast



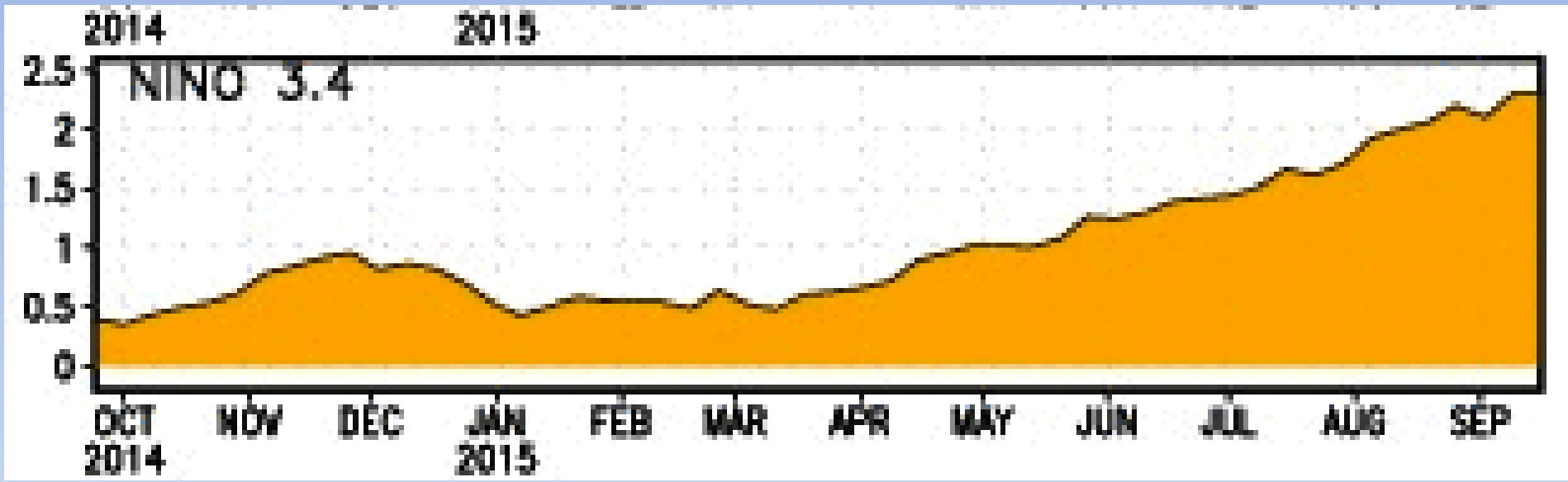
October is Driest Month of the Year



Current SST Anomalies

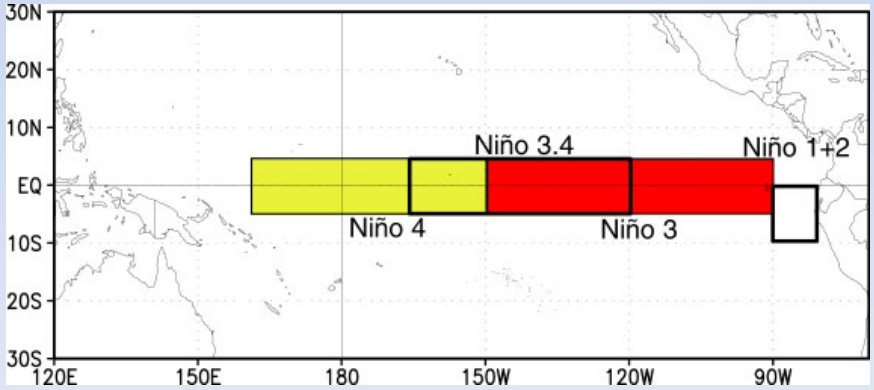


Nino 3.4 Index

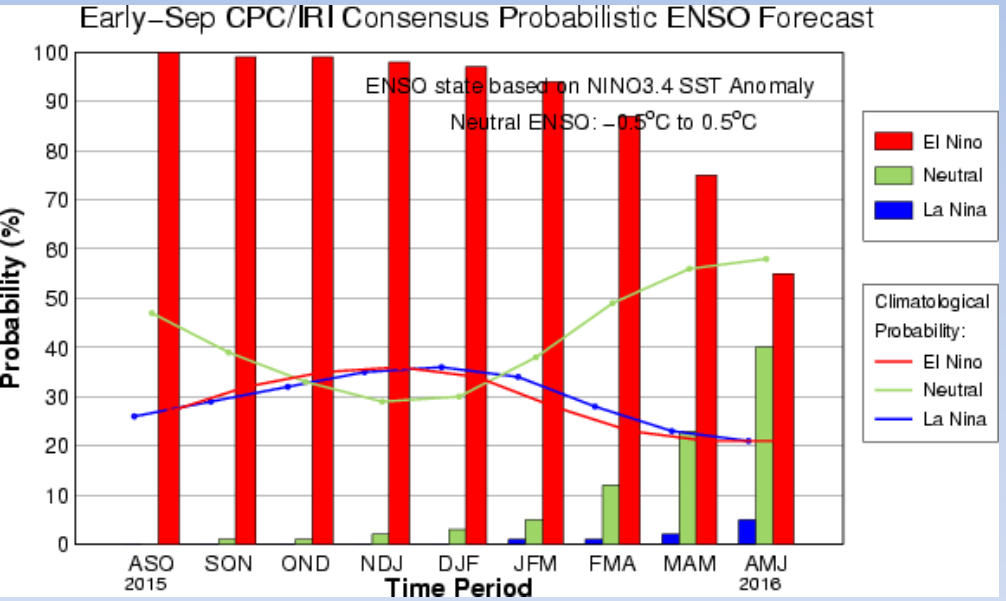


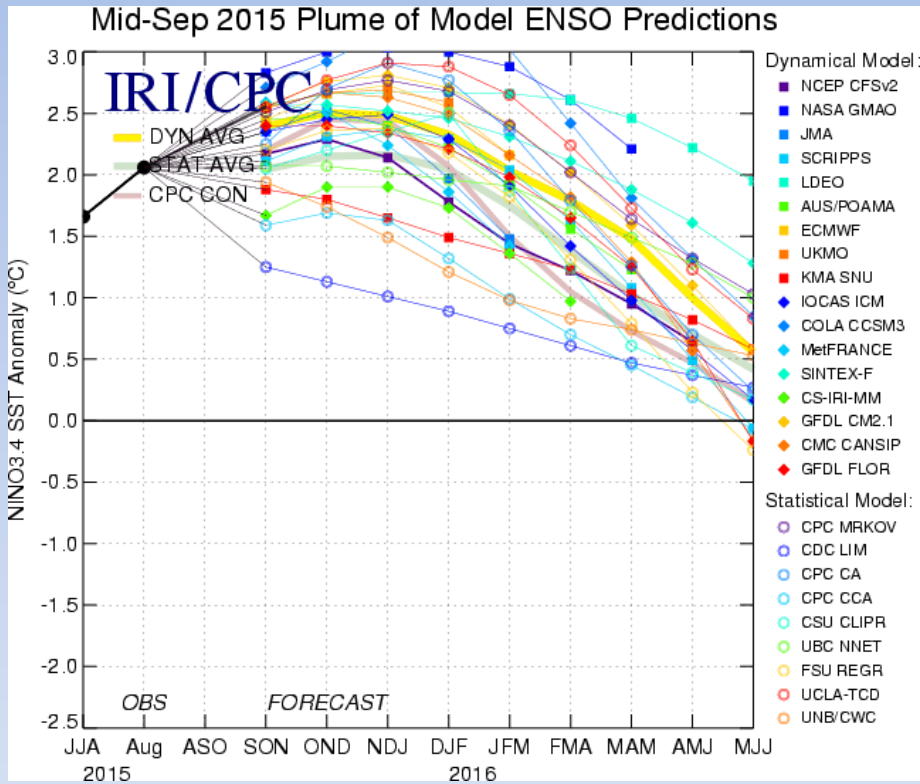
- Current weekly value at +2.3, into the “very strong” range

- Reached weekly peak value of 2.8 in Nov. 1997

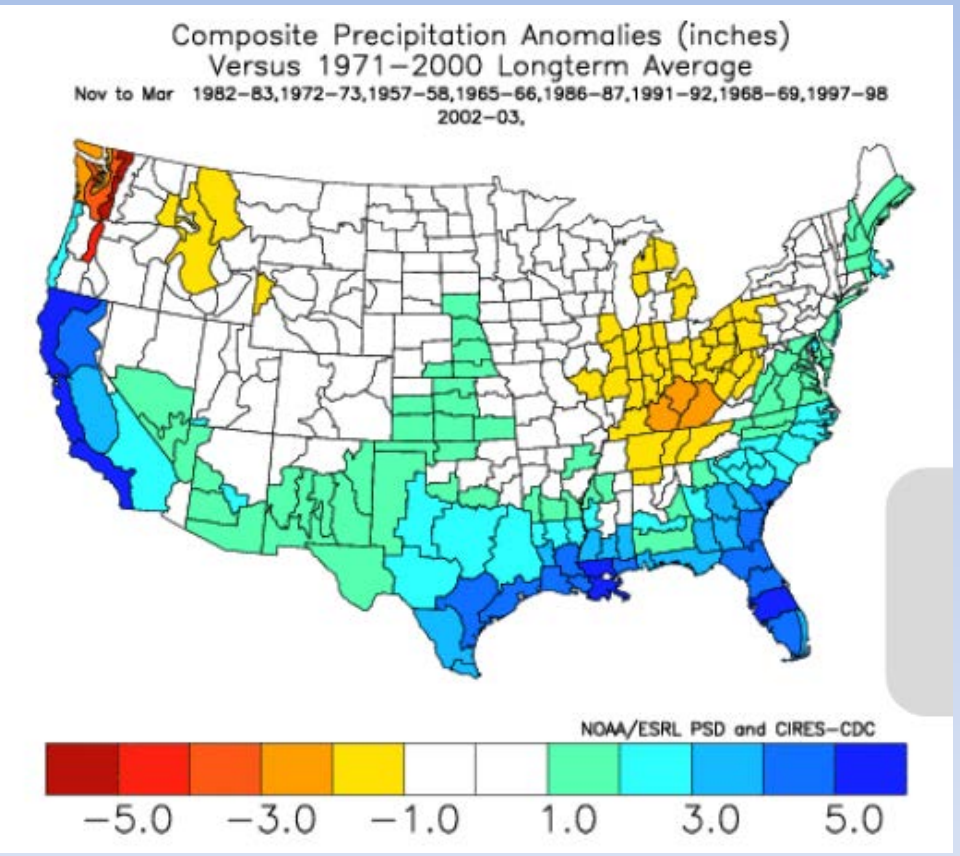


Nino 3.4 Forecasts



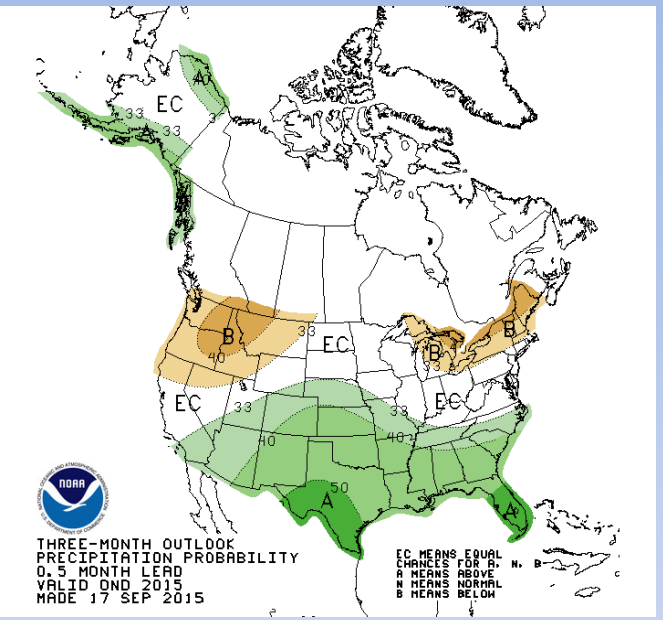


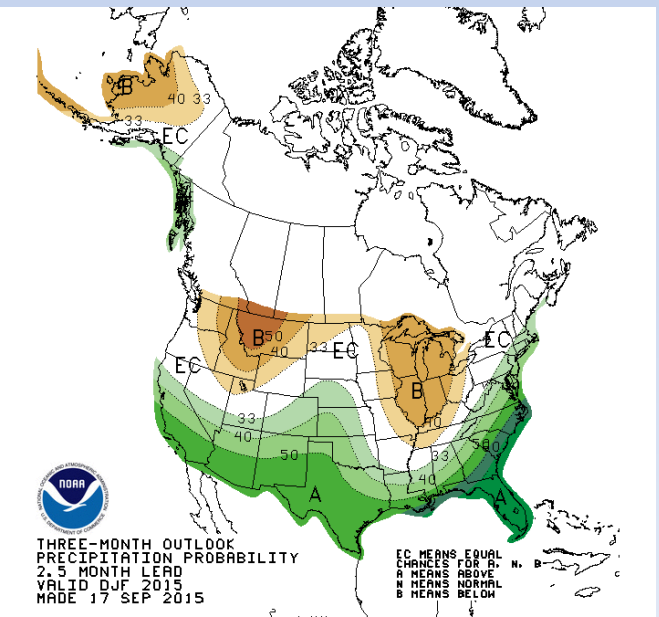
El Nino and Winter Rainfall



- El Nino typically brings enhanced winter rainfall to California and the southern U.S., including Texas and Florida.
- California Rainfall more hit or miss than other Southern States
- Strong El Nino does not necessarily mean even more rainfall, just more confidence in following the pattern.

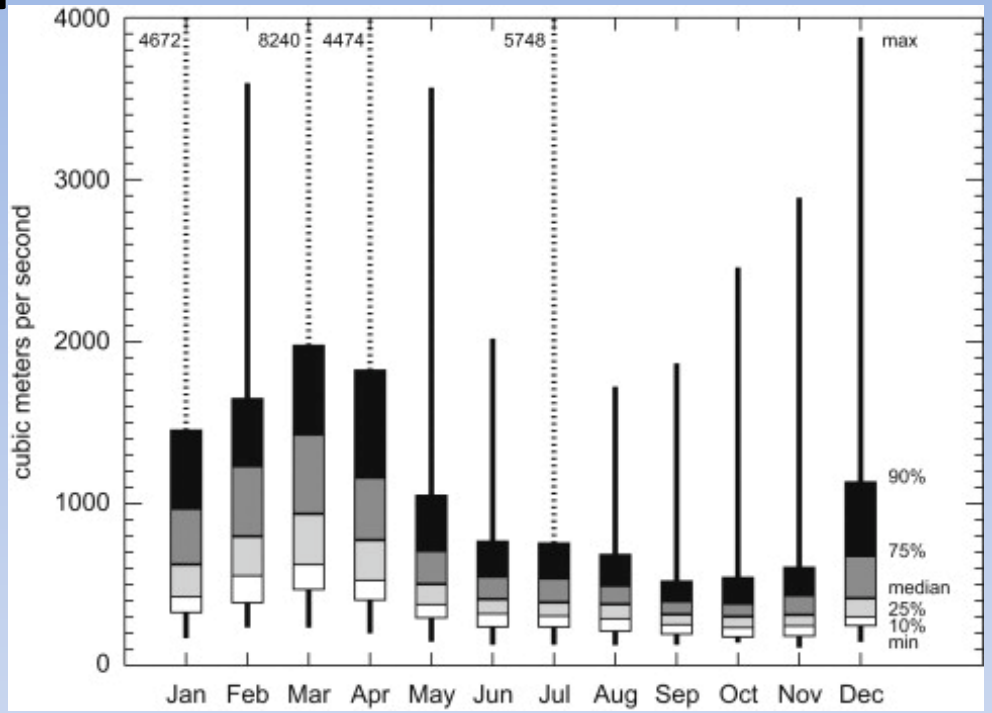
Official NOAA Outlook

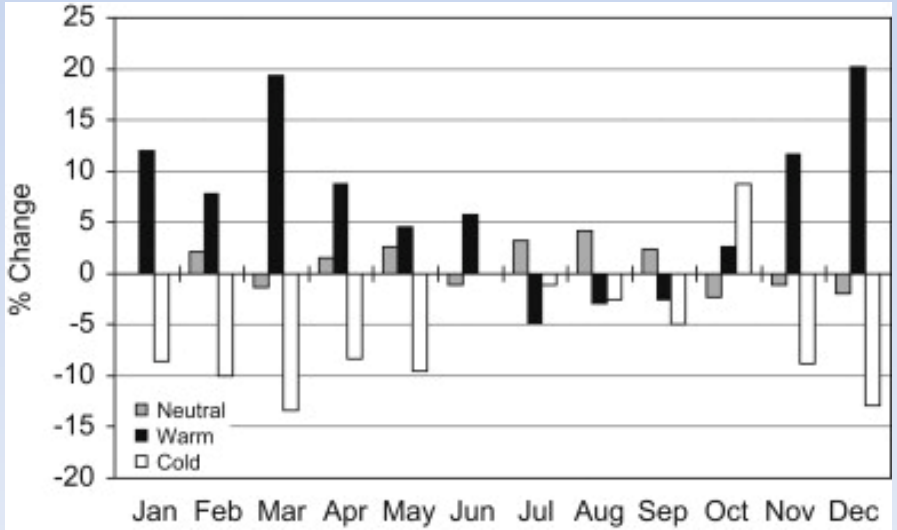




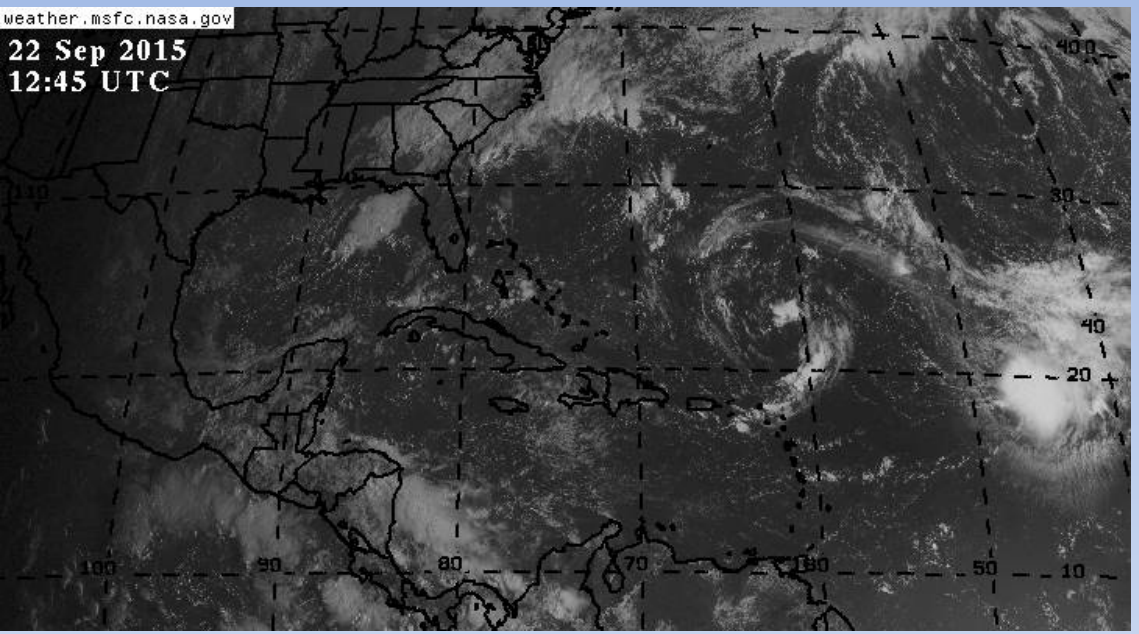
- NOAA's fall (Oct.-Dec.) and winter (Dec. – Feb.) outlooks
- Enhanced fall rainfall favored over entire southern U.S. consistent with El Nino
- 70% chance of above normal rainfall in Florida is the one of the strongest seasonal forecasts ever made.

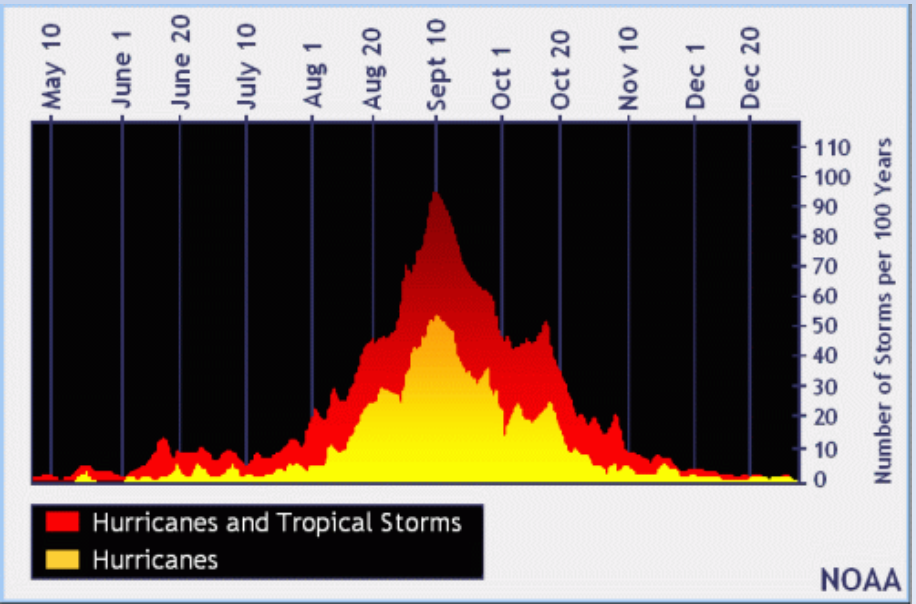
Apalachicola River Flows





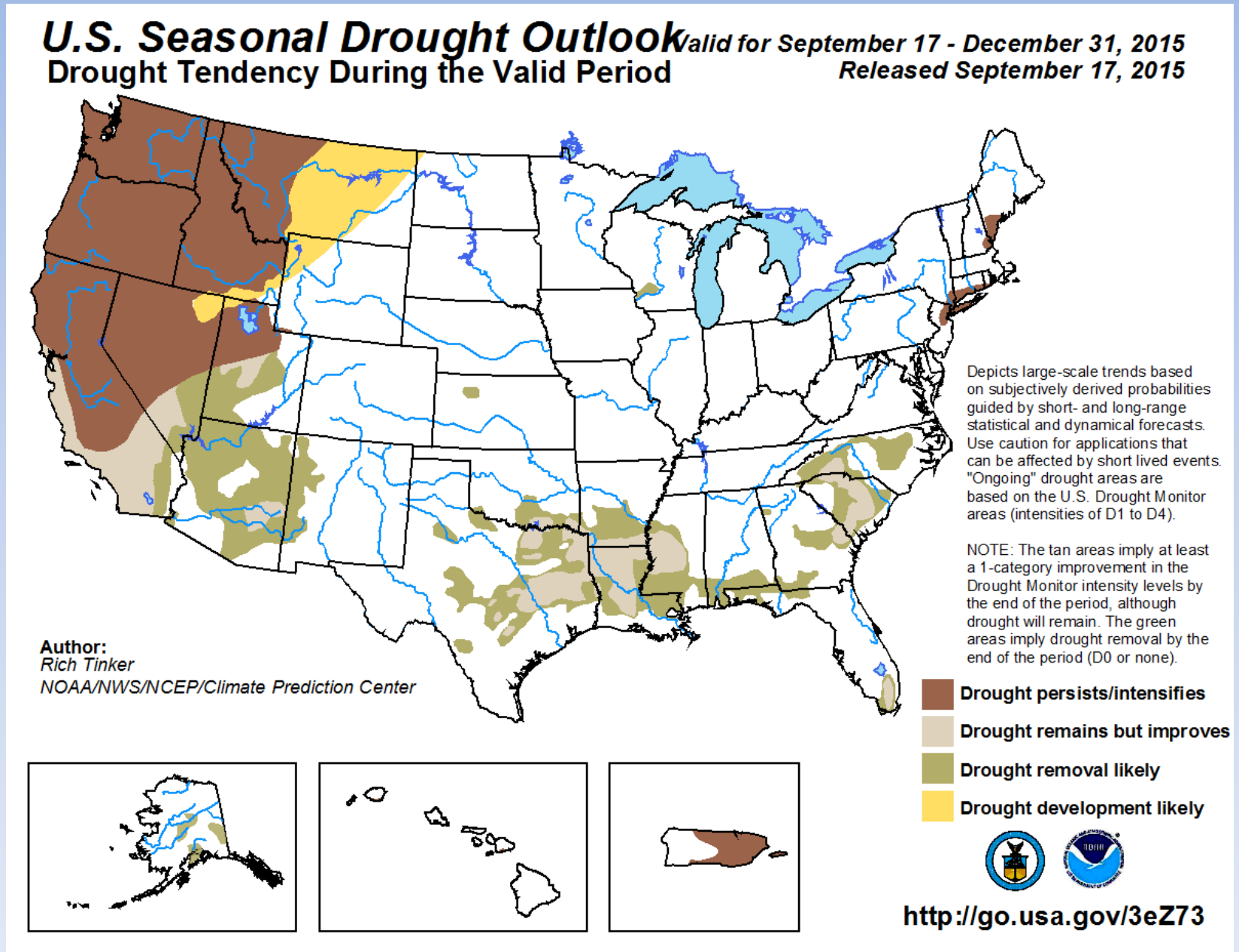
Atlantic Hurricane Summary





- 9 named storms so far this year (6-11 predicted)
- Only 2 have reached hurricane strength (Danny and Fred)
- None have made it past the central Caribbean

U.S. Drought Outlook

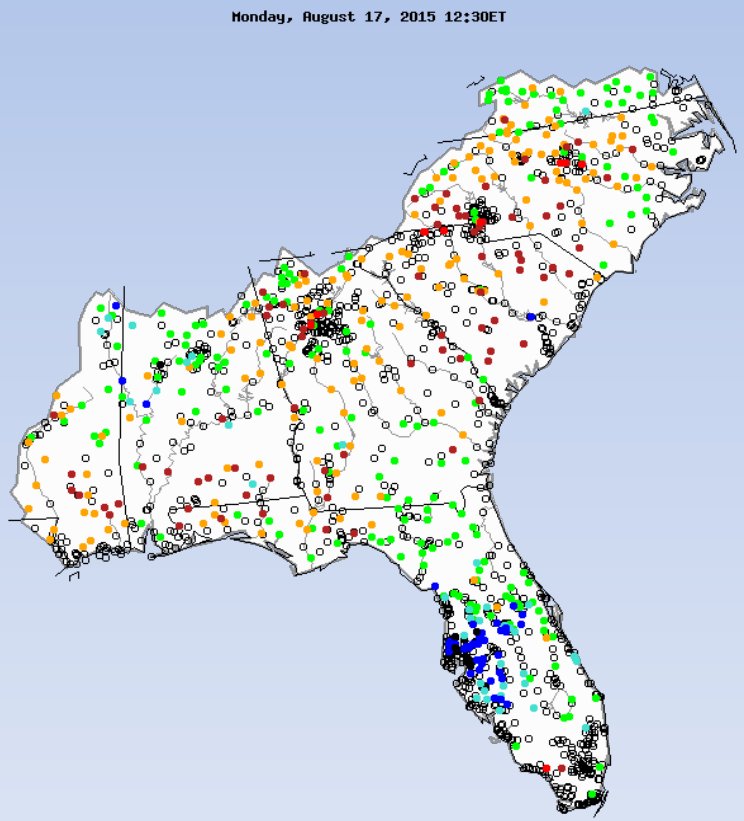


Streamflows and Groundwater

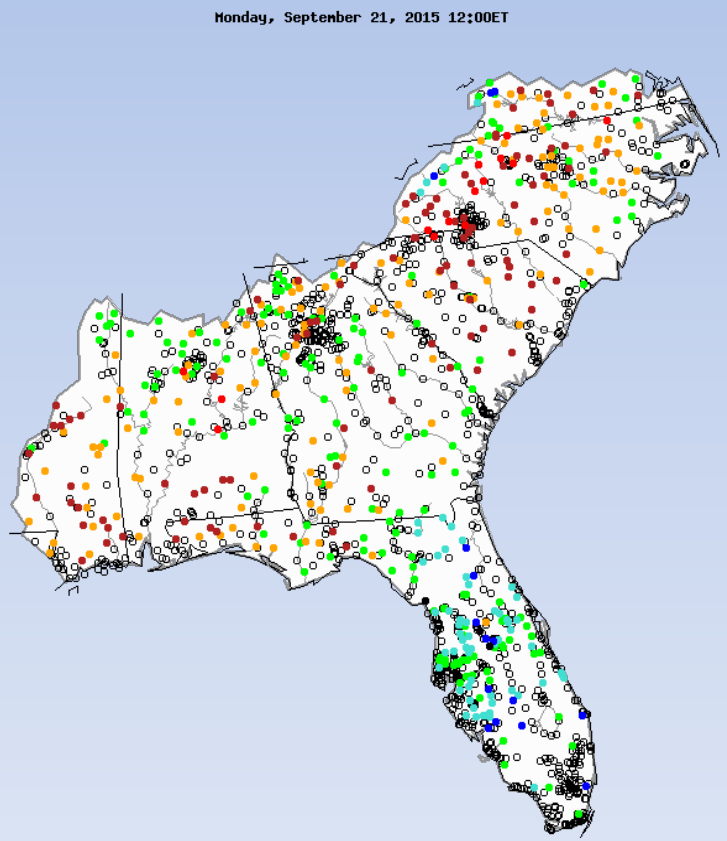
Paul Ankcorn

Realtime stream flow compared with historical monthly averages

Previous Brief:



Current:



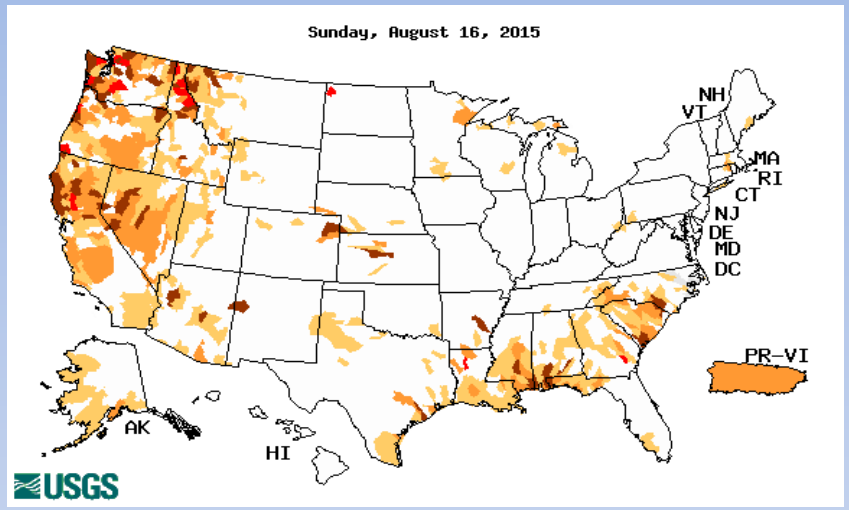
USGS Explanation - Percentile classes

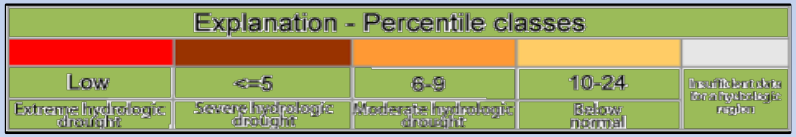
Low	<10 Much below normal	10-24 Below normal	25-75 Normal	76-90 Above normal	>90 Much above normal	High

USGS http://waterwatch.usgs.gov

Below Normal 7-day Average Streamflows

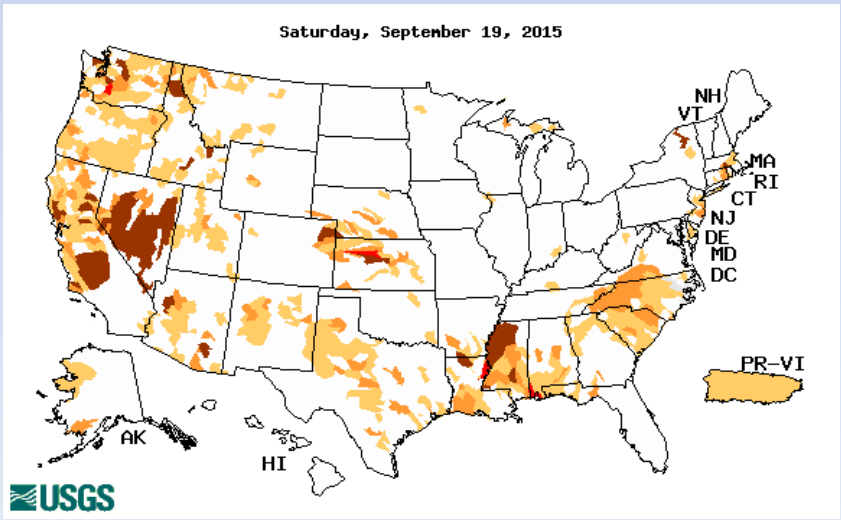
Previous brief:





Below normal 7-day average streamflow as compared with historical streamflow for day shown

Current:



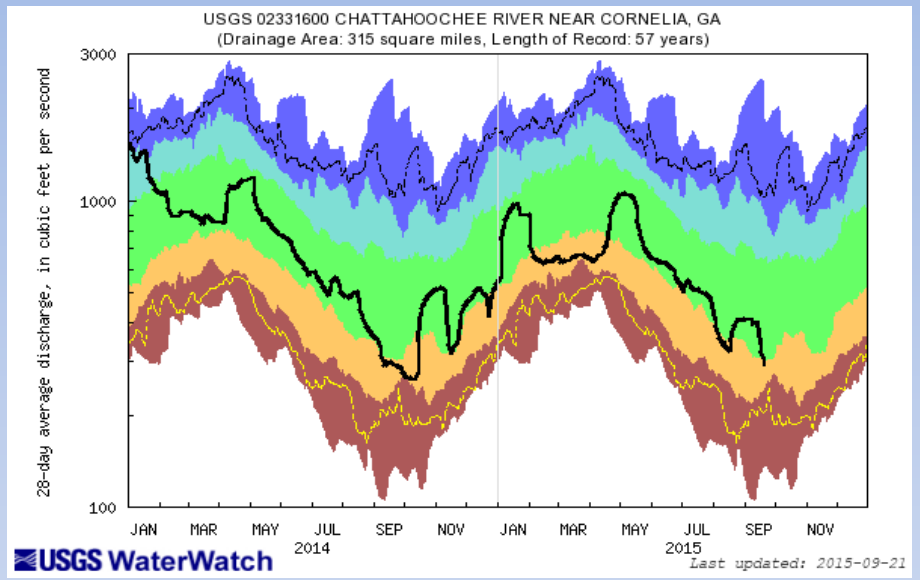
http://waterwatch.usgs.gov

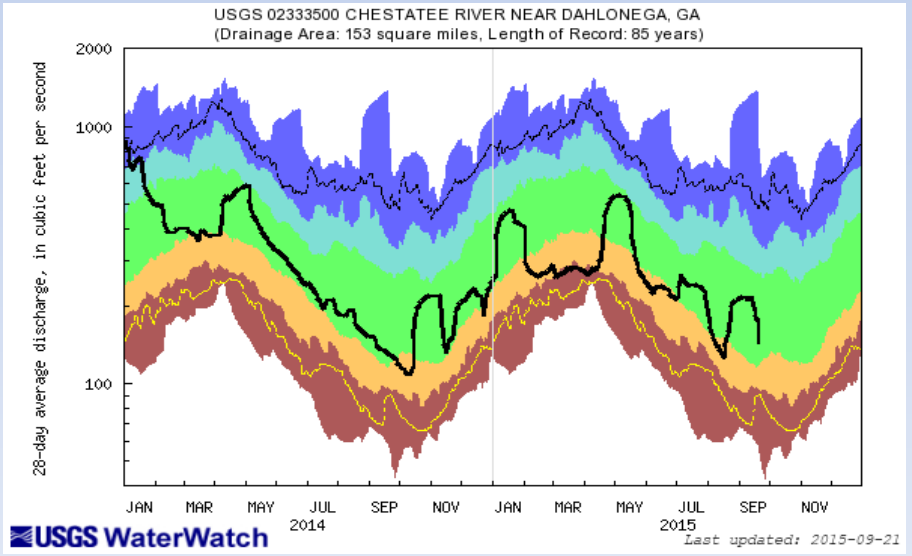
Lake Lanier Inflows

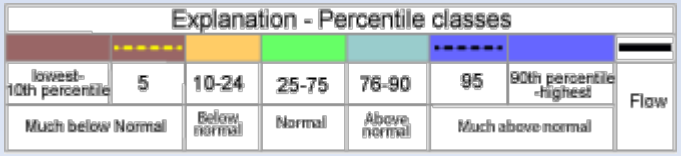
Chattahoochee near Cornelia (02331600)

http://waterwatch.usgs.gov

Chestatee near Dahlonega (02333500)





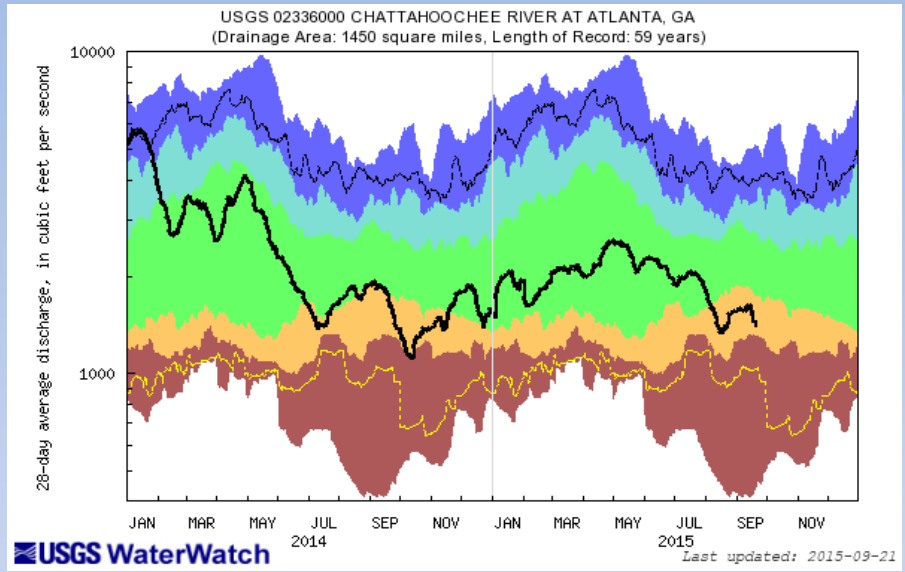


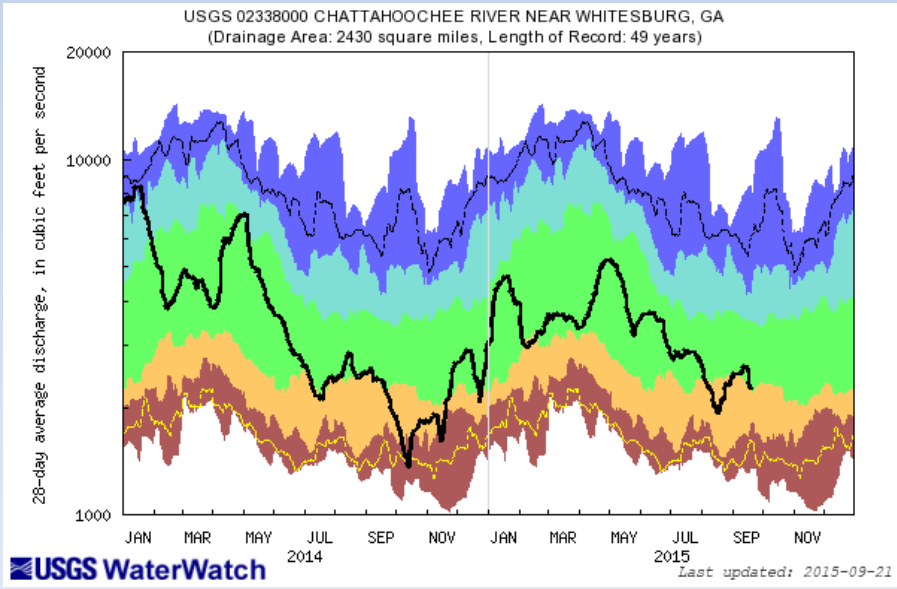
Current Streamflows

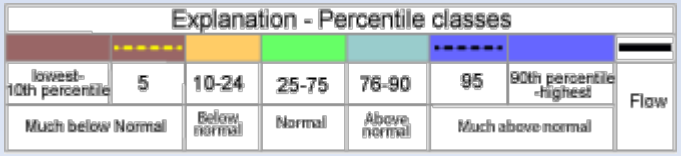
Chattahoochee at Atlanta (02336000)

http://waterwatch.usgs.gov

Chattahoochee near Whitesburg (02338000)

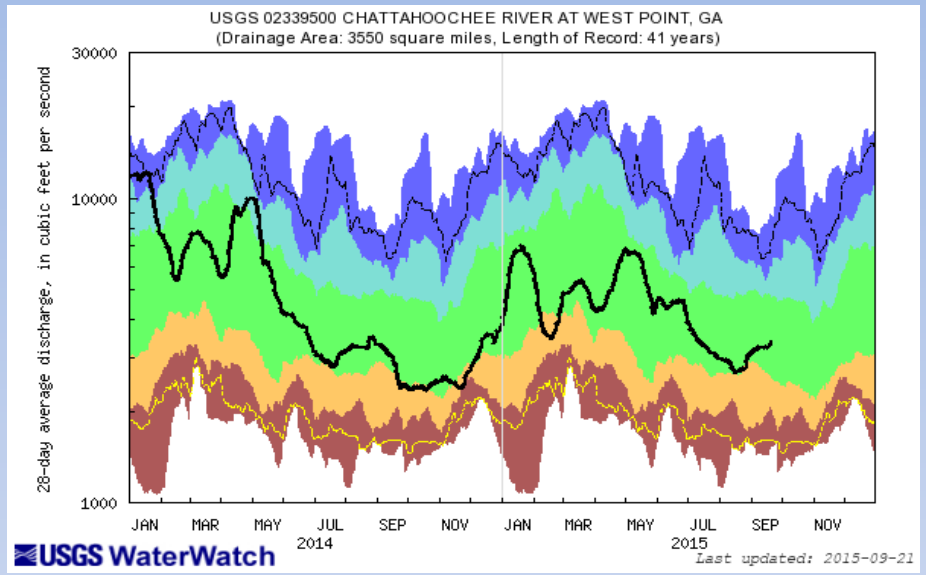






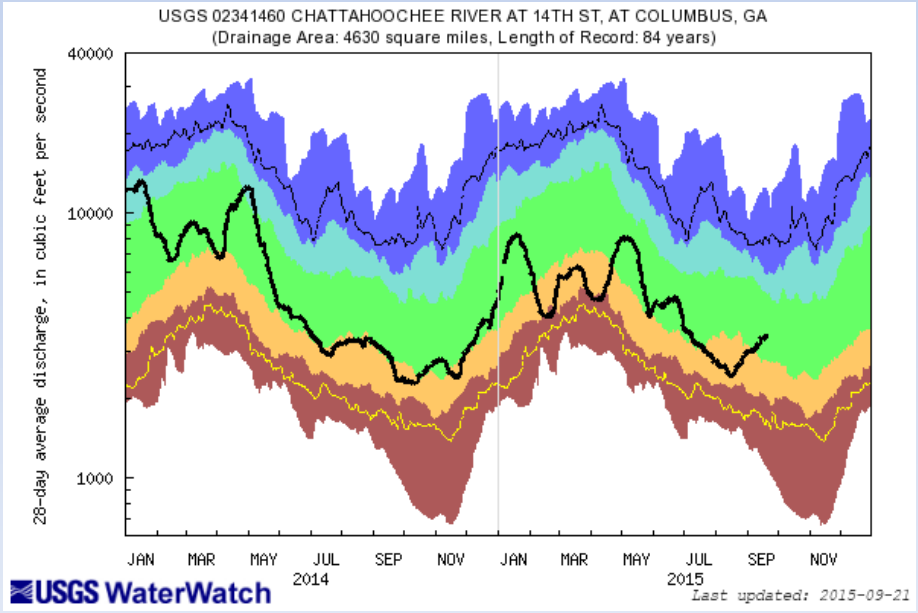
Current Streamflows

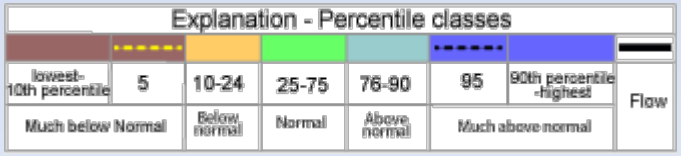
Chattahoochee at West Point (02339500)



http://waterwatch.usgs.gov

Chattahoochee at Columbus(02341460)



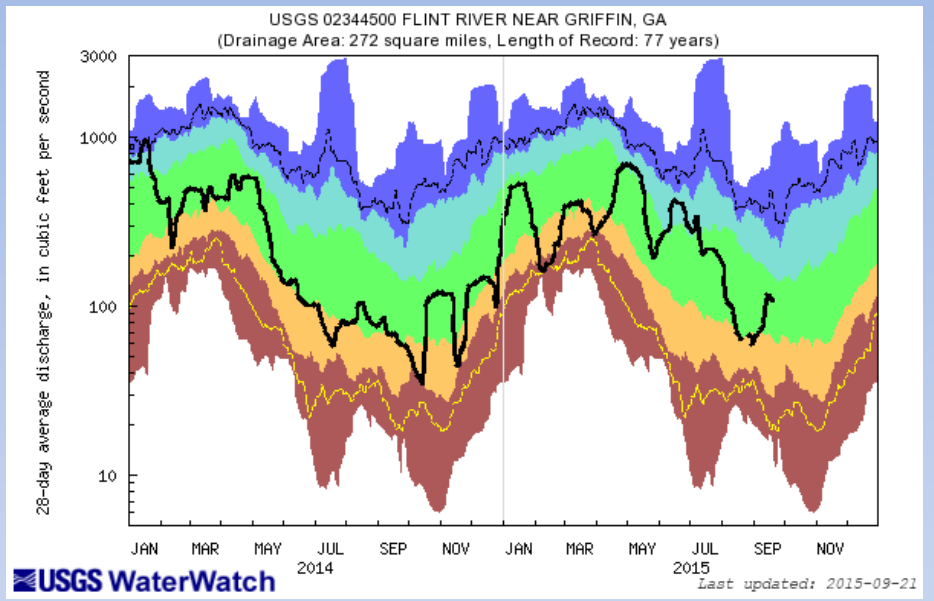


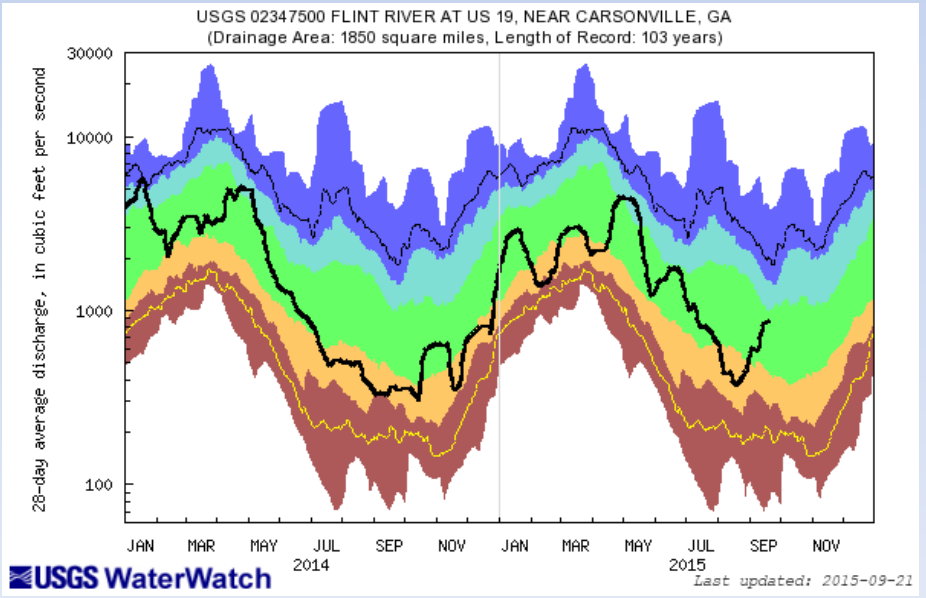
Current Streamflows

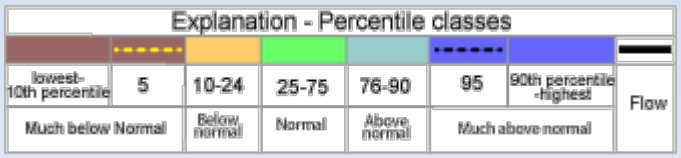
Flint River near Griffin (02344500)

http://waterwatch.usgs.gov

Flint River near Carsonville (02347500)





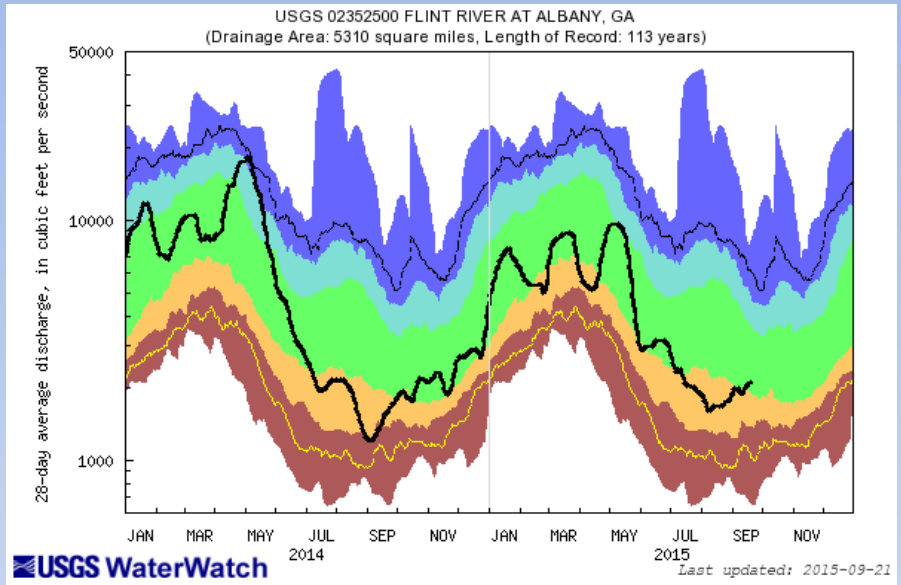


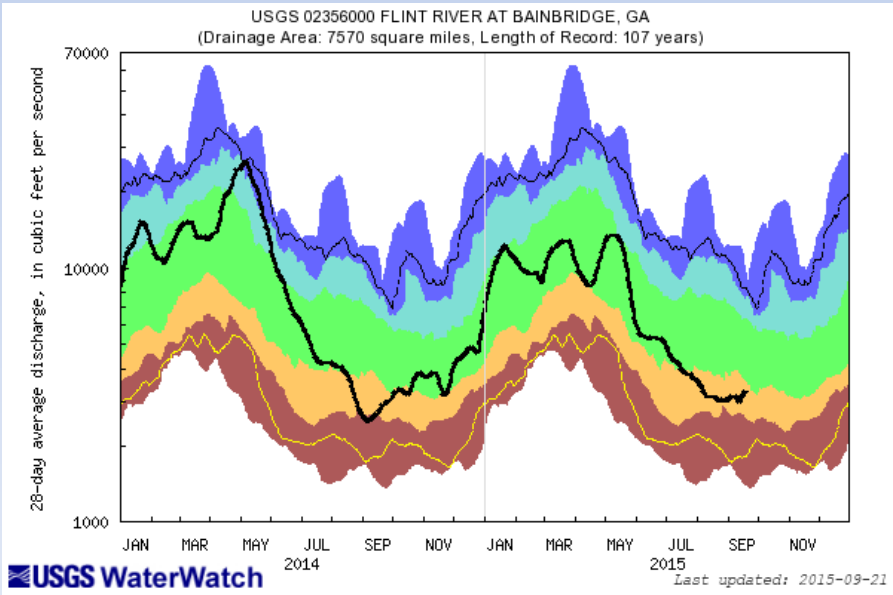
Current Streamflows

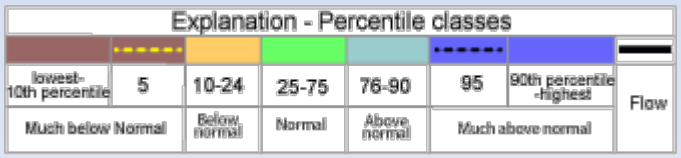
Flint River at Albany (02352500)

http://waterwatch.usgs.gov

Flint at Bainbridge (02356000)

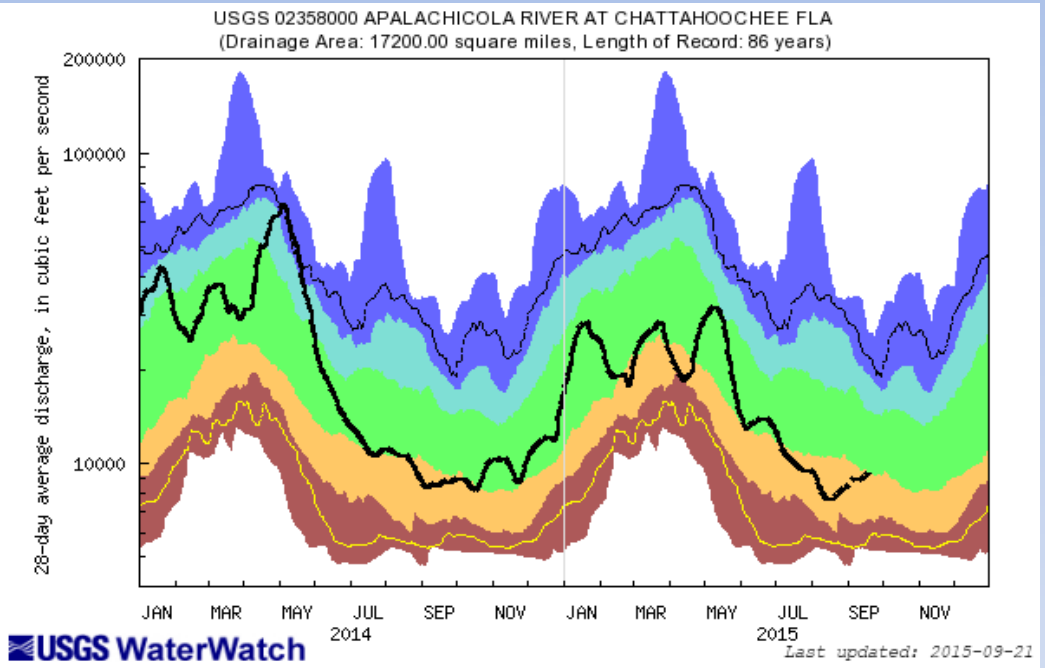


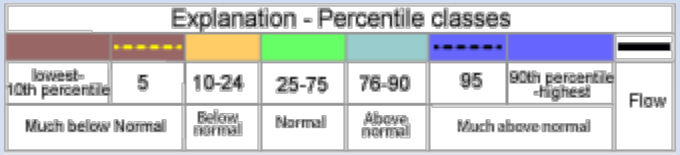




Streamflows

Apalachicola at Chattahoochee (02358000)





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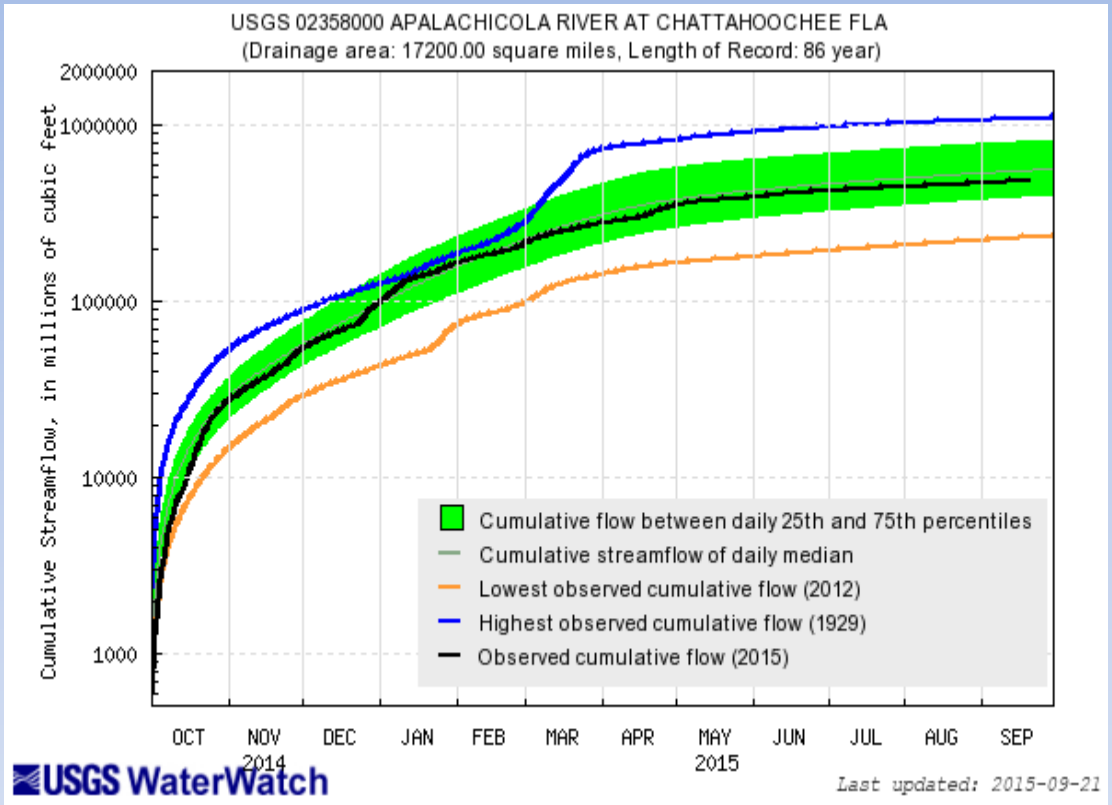
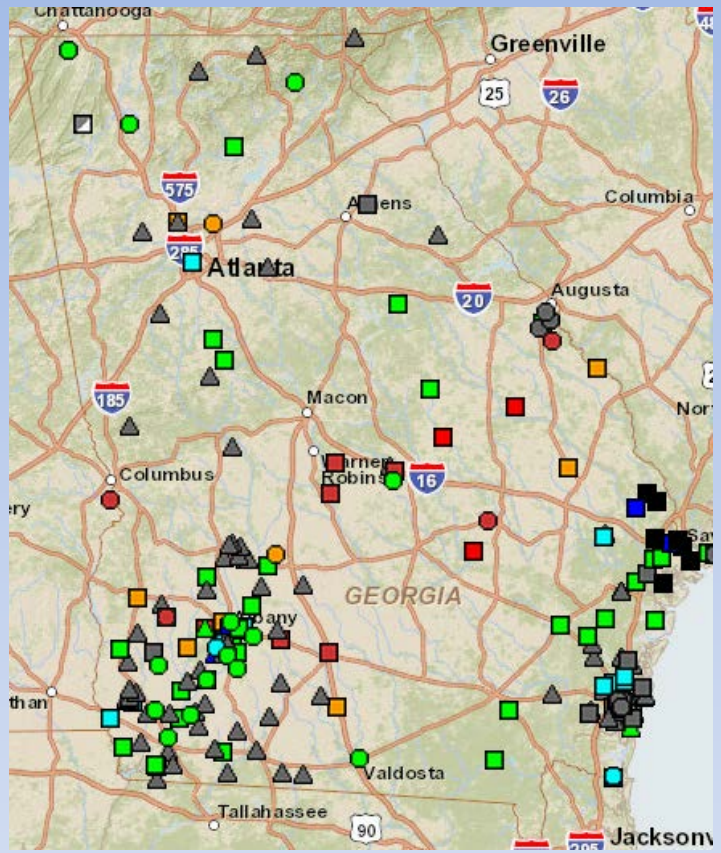
Streamflows

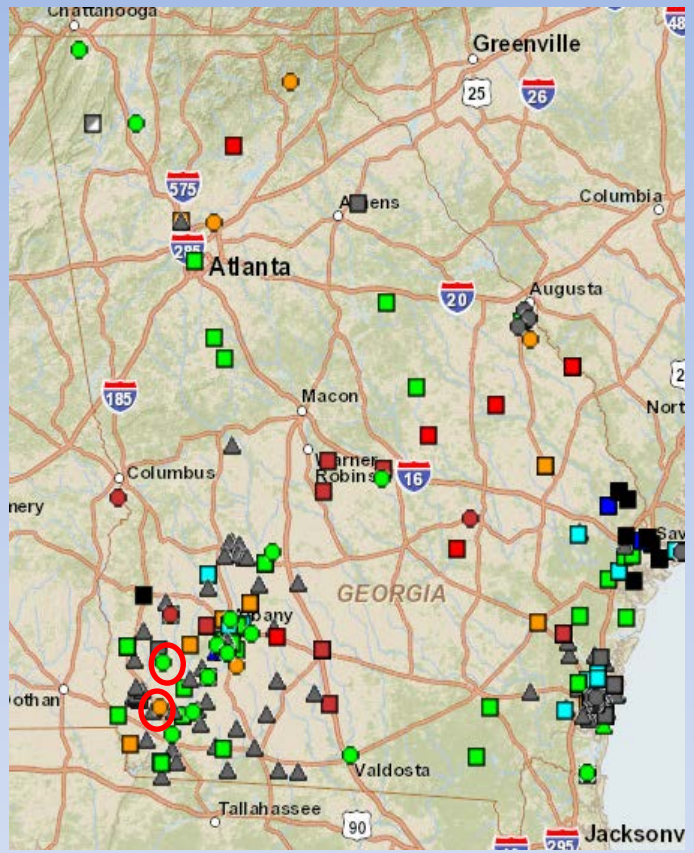
Apalachicola at Chattahoochee (02358000)



http://waterwatch.usgs.gov

Groundwater Conditions





Previous brief

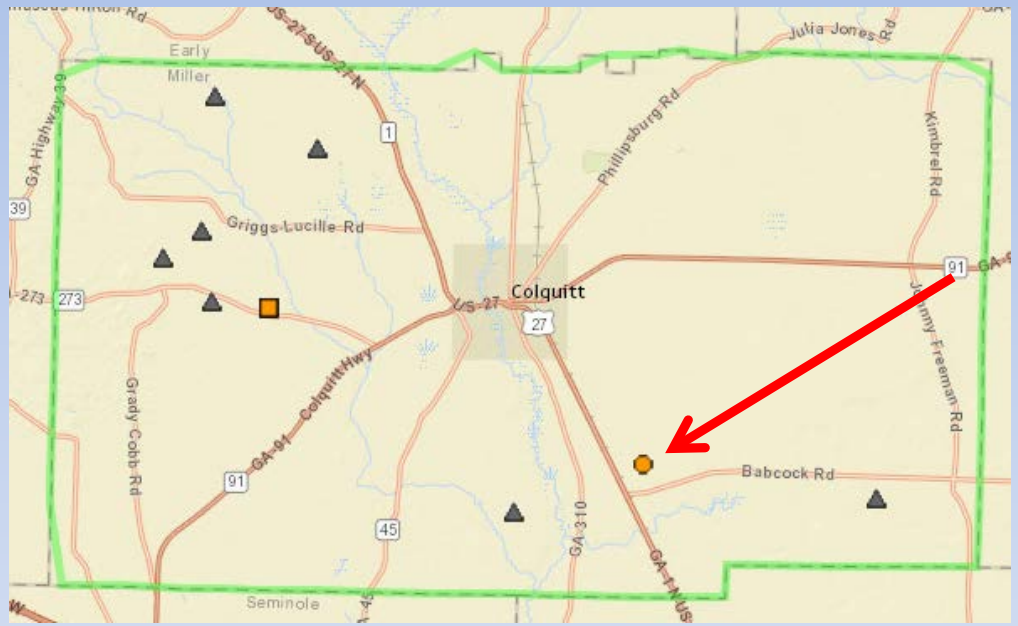
Current brief

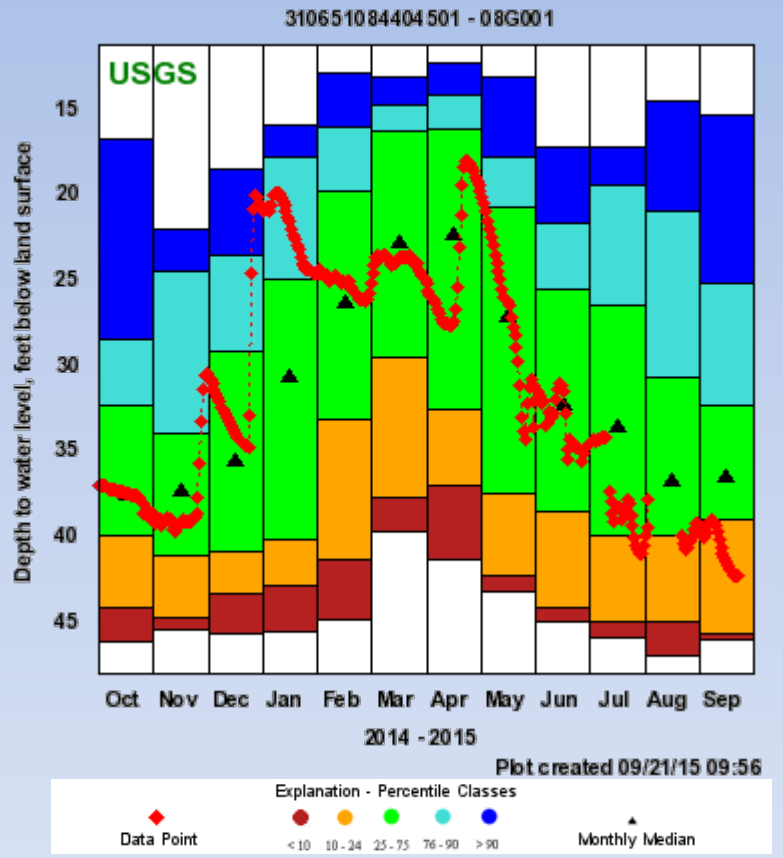
Explanation - Percentile classes (symbol color based on most recent measurement)							
Low	<10 Much Below Normal	10-24 Below Normal	25-75 Normal	76-90 Above Normal	>90 Much Above Normal	High	Not Ranked

Wells	Springs
Real-Time	
Continuous	
Periodic Measurements	

http://groundwaterwatch.usgs.gov

Groundwater Status – Miller County 08G001





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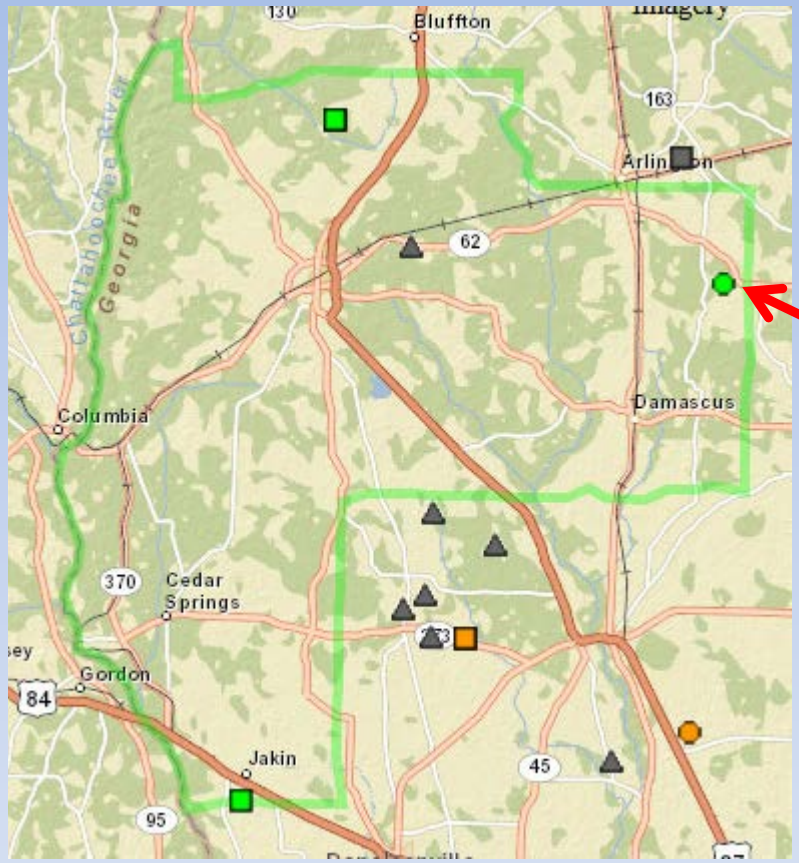
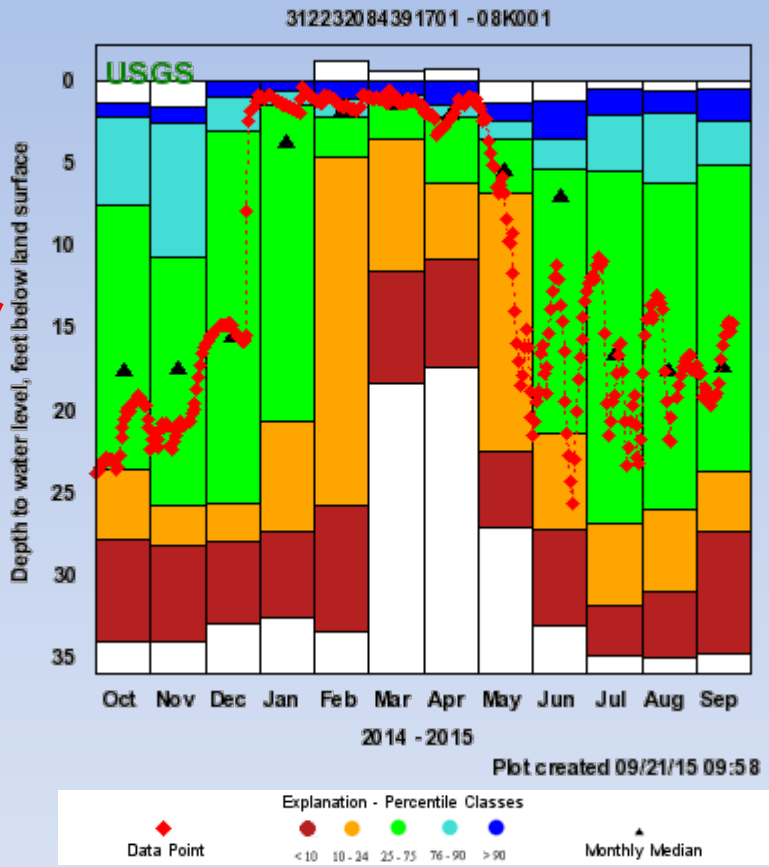
(Upper Floridan Aquifer)

Groundwater Status – Early County 08K001





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(Upper Floridan Aquifer)

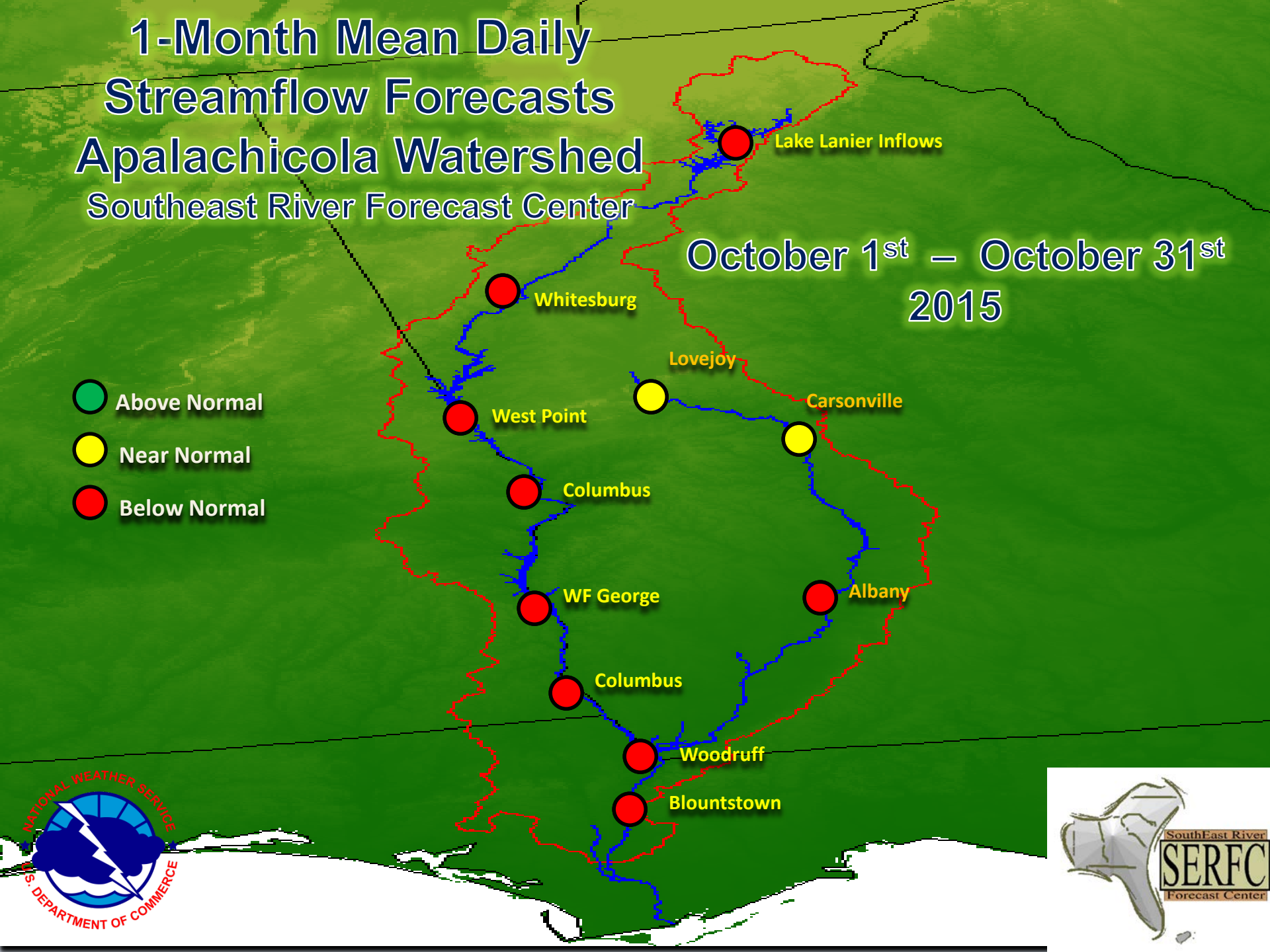
Streamflow Forecasts

Jeff Dobur

1-Month Mean Daily Streamflow Forecasts Apalachicola Watershed

Southeast River Forecast Center

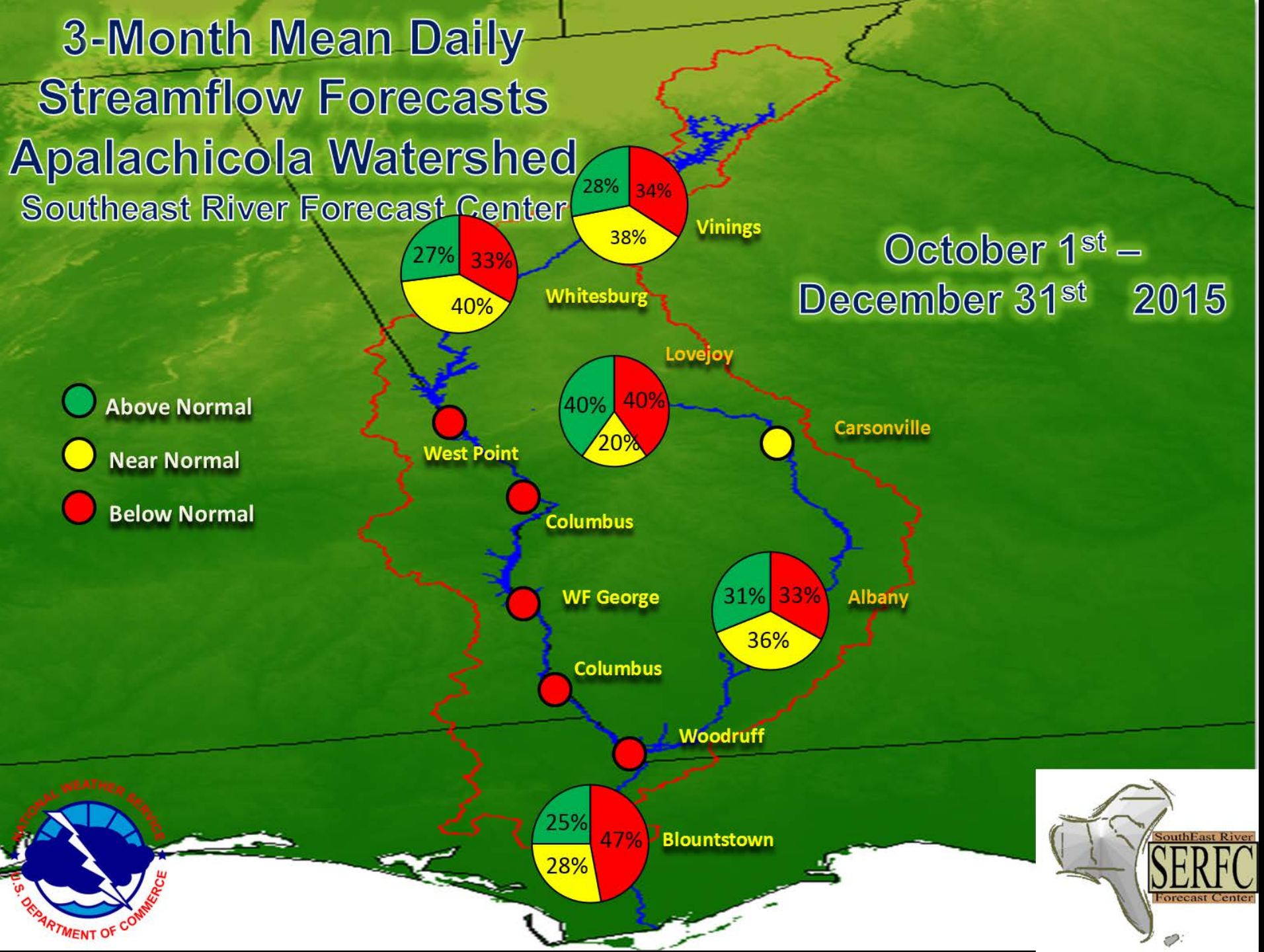
October 1st – October 31st 2015



3-Month Mean Daily Streamflow Forecasts Apalachicola Watershed

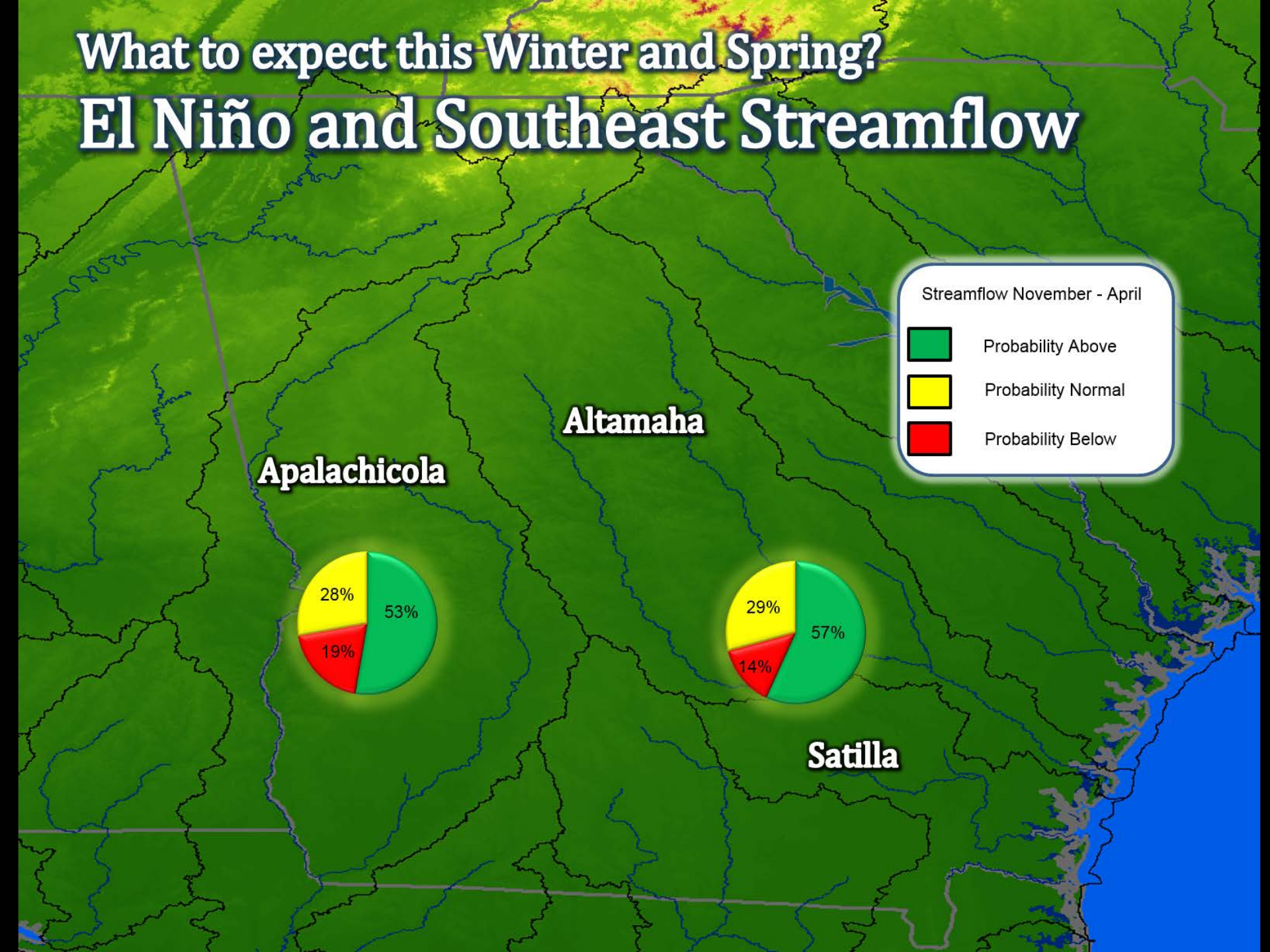
Southeast River Forecast Center

October 1st – December 31st 2015



What to expect this Winter and Spring?

El Niño and Southeast Streamflow



Summary - David Zierden

- Harvest season for row crops in the Southeast, drier weather desireable.
- Mostly normal rainfall the past 30-90 days for upper and middle ACF, below normal in the lower basin.
- Parts of the lower ACF designated as moderate drought by the *US Drought Monitor.*
- El Nino continues to strengthen, reaching “very strong” level (similar to 1982 and 1998).
- El Nino composites show much above normal winter rainfall across most of the ACF
- Streamflow analysis shows increased winter flows on the Apalachicola River during El Nino.
- CPC fall and winter outlooks favor pattern of above normal rainfall for all the Southern U.S., strongest forecast possible for Florida.
- High vertical shear inhibiting hurricanes from impacting the U.S.
- Drought very likely to improve over the next few months.

Summary - Paul Ankcorn

- Realtime streamflows range from normal to much below normal for most of the ACF basin.
- 28-day average streamflows into Lake Lanier are in the normal to below normal range.
- 28-day average streamflows are in the normal to below normal range for most of the Flint River basin.
- Groundwater levels are in the normal to below normal range in Southwest Georgia.

Summary - Jeff Dobur

- 1 Month Streamflow forecast - Near to Below Normal
- 3 Month Streamflow forecast – Equal chances using ESP method. Hedge ENSO = higher flows.
- Pie Charts do not consider any future forecast such as ENSO, CPC or other. Based on soil conditions relative to normal in concert with historical precipitation.

Questions, Comments, Discussion

References

Speakers

David Zierden, FSU

Paul Ankcorn, USGS

Jeff Dobur, SERFC

Moderator

Eric Reutebuch, AU WRC

Additional information

- General drought information
  http://drought.gov
  http://www.drought.unl.edu
- General climate and El Niño information
  http://agroclimate.org/climate/
- Streamflow monitoring & forecasting
  http://waterwatch.usgs.gov
  http://www.srh.noaa.gov/serfc/
- Groundwater monitoring
  http://groundwaterwatch.usgs.gov

Thank you!

Next briefing

October 27, 2015, 1:00 pm EDT

Moderator: Eric Reutebuch

Slides from this briefing will be posted at

http://drought.gov/drought/content/regional-programs/regional-drought-webinars

Please send comments and suggestions to:

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