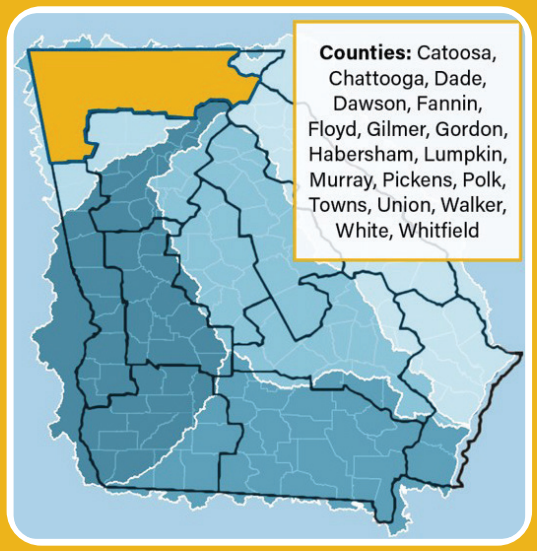
COOSA-NORTH GEORGIA REGION

BACKGROUND

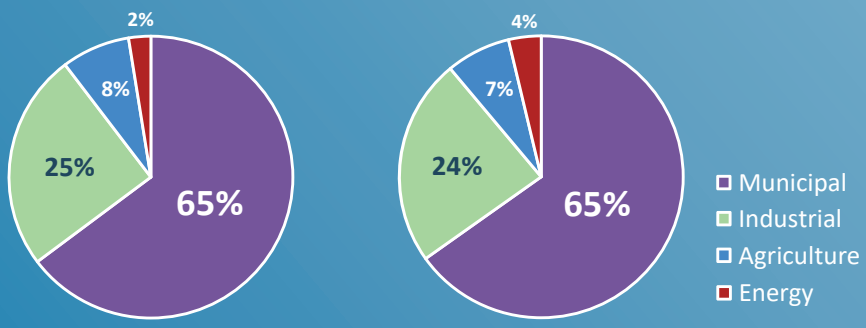
The Coosa-North Georgia Regional Water Plan (RWP) was first adopted by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division in September 2011, and as required, was updated in 2017 and 2023. The Plan outlines strategies to meet water needs through 2060 and fulfills the Council's vision and goals for the region. Major water resources in the region include the Coosa, Tennessee and Chattahoochee River Basins, and the Crystalline rock and Paleozoic rock aquifers.



OVERVIEW OF COOSA-NORTH GEORGIA REGION

The Region, which includes 18 counties in north Georgia, is forecast to grow from 792,710 to 920,440 people by 2060. The Region is home to major agri-tourism areas, such as apples and pumpkins in the Fannin and Gilmer Counties and wineries in Lumpkin and White Counties; other economic drivers include manufacturing, such as carpet in Whitfield County. The Region also provides many outdoor recreational opportunities from fishing and boating to hiking and biking.

FORECASTED REGIONAL WATER DEMANDS



2020 Water Demand
Total = 170 MGD

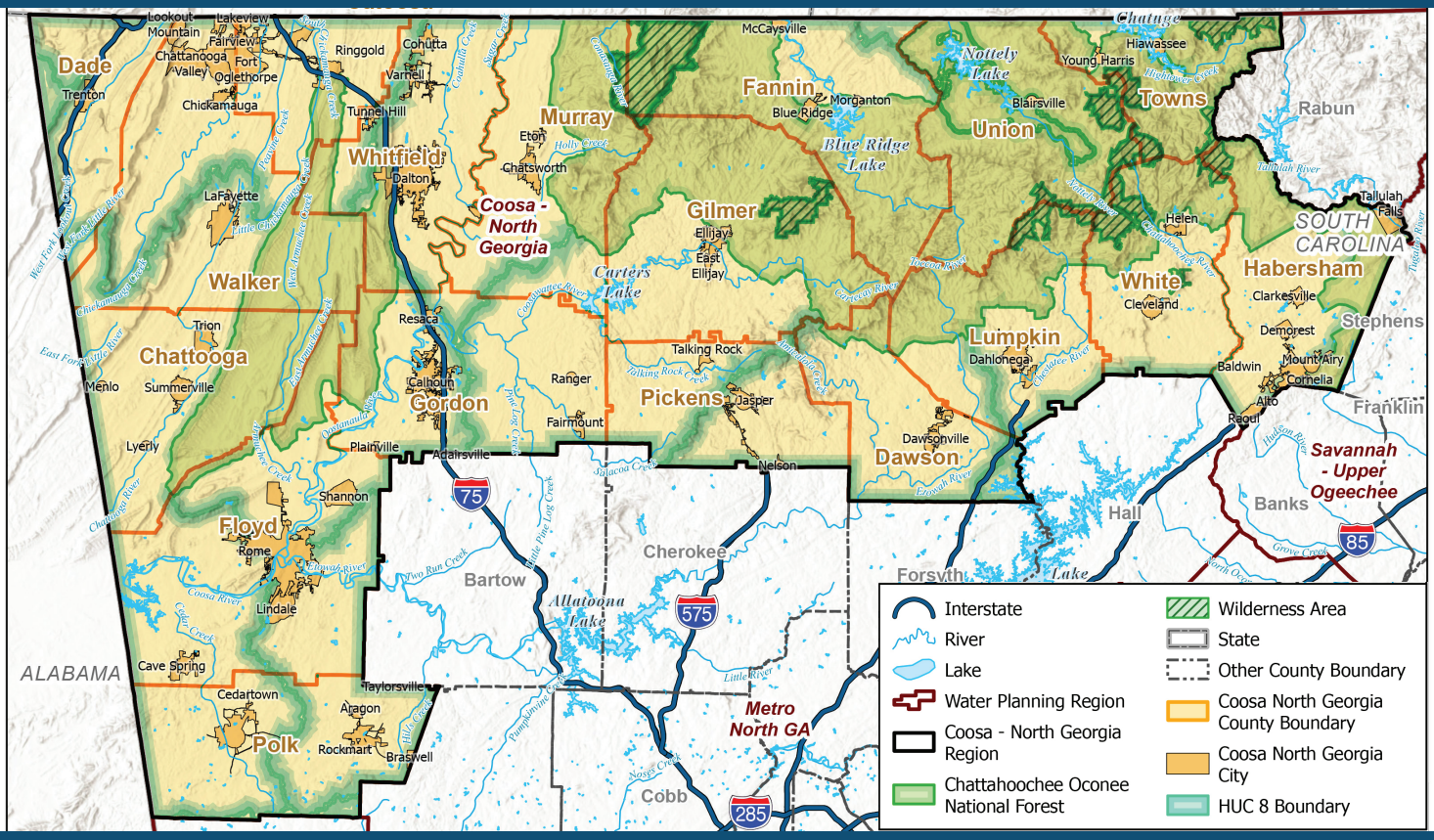
2060 Water Demand
Total = 186 MGD

KEY WATER RESOURCES ELEMENTS CONSIDERED BY THE COUNCIL:

1. Groundwater resources in the Region are generally limited; the majority of the water supply needs are met with surface water sources.
2. Regional topography makes it challenging to cost-effectively share water supply resources and infrastructure.
3. Water quality concerns in Lake Allatoona, Carters Lake, and Lake Lanier targeted with TMDL Standards.
4. Maintaining coordination with neighboring water councils supports effective water resources management by basin.
5. A new management practice provides focus on utility administration, including utility finance and asset management.
6. Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment Management Practices include a focus on emerging contaminants, including PFAS/PFOA monitoring in the Region.

Georgia's State Water Plan
COOSA-NORTH GEORGIA REGION

https://waterplanning.georgia.gov/water-planning-regions/coosa-north-georgia-water-planning-region



SUMMARY OF 2023 RESOURCE ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Surface Water Availability: The Basin Environmental Assessment Model (BEAM), which enables river basin resource assessments at a finer scale than previously possible, models all facility water withdrawals and discharges. BEAM provides an assessment of water supply availability, against the context of an 80-year period of record (1939-2018), which is reflected in the number of challenge days and total water shortage for modeled facilities.

The BEAM tool assessed 54 water supply withdrawals and 38 wastewater discharges in the 18-county Region. Of these, 26% of withdrawals and 34% of discharges are predicted to have at least one challenge day for 2060 conditions, indicating a lower probability overall of water supply/ assimilative capacity constraints.

Surface Water Quality: Most streams in the region have available assimilative capacity with some localized exceptions. GA EPD has established daily maximum limits (TMDLs) for Lake Allatoona, Carters Lake and Lake Lanier. Management of future nutrient loadings to the major lakes will require improvements to point and non-point source reductions.

Groundwater Availability: Due to underlying geology in the region, groundwater is not a primary water source. No new groundwater availability analyses was conducted as part of the Plan update. No sustainable yield issues were identified based on current or future demand conditions.

COOSA-NORTH GEORGIA MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

To promote stewardship of the region's water resources, the 2023 RWP recommends 20 water management practices, highlighted below:

Administrative: Supports utility management, including utility finance best practices, asset management and local master planning.

Water Conservation: Supports implementation of practices that are beneficial for all communities, such as education and public awareness programs.

Water Supply Management: Practices include consideration of additional water supply sources, including maximizing existing reservoirs, investigating groundwater sources, encouraging beneficial reuse as well as considering expansion or addition of treatment facilities.

Wastewater Management: Practices include encouraging development of Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) education programs, and local ordinances for minimum standards for decentralized treatment systems.

Water Quality: Practices include encouraging nutrient management programs, enhanced best management practices (BMPs), supporting TMDL implementation to de-list 303(d) listed streams, encouraging comprehensive land use planning and flood plain management and considering water quality credit trading.

Recommendations to State: Focus on funding opportunities for infrastructure needs, continue support of the Seed Grant program, fund innovative research strategies to address state-wide water resources challenges, such as emerging contaminants.