



**US Army Corps
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Savannah District

Glades Reservoir Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Cover Sheet

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**COVER SHEET
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

GLADES RESERVOIR PROJECT

Lead Agency: Department of the Army
Corps of Engineers, Savannah District

Jurisdictions in Georgia That Could be Directly Affected: Hall and Whites Counties and incorporated municipalities therein, Georgia

Abstract: This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) evaluates the effects of a water supply project called the Glades Reservoir. The Glades Reservoir would result in direct impacts to jurisdictional waters of the United States (WOUS.), including wetlands and streams. The placement of fill material in these WOUS for the construction of water storage and transmission facilities associated with developing additional water supplies requires authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Applicant is Hall County, acting by and through its Board of Commissioners.

Hall County proposes to construct an 11.7 billion gallon (BG) reservoir along Flat Creek in Hall County, Georgia, approximately 35 miles northeast of Atlanta. The reservoir would have a usable storage of 9.4 BG and a water surface area of 850 acres at a normal pool elevation of 1180 feet above mean sea level. It would be operated as a pumped-storage reservoir and have a proposed dam height of 140 feet. A 37-million gallon per day (mgd) intake and pump station would be located on the Chattahoochee River, approximately 3 miles north of Belton Bridge, and would transfer water from the river to the reservoir via a 48-inch diameter, 4-mile transmission pipeline. Water would only be pumped from the Chattahoochee River to fill or refill the reservoir when river flows are above the instream flow protection thresholds (IFPT), and only when the IFPT can be maintained in the river below the pump station. Water stored in the reservoir would be released into Flat Creek, flow downstream into Lake Lanier, and be withdrawn at an existing raw water intake operated by the City of Gainesville (Gainesville), Georgia. Gainesville owns and operates the water treatment and distribution system facilities that serve all of Hall County. It is currently allowed to withdraw a maximum of 18 mgd from Lake Lanier. Gainesville's future water supply allocation from Lake Lanier is unknown. The purpose of the Proposed Project is to provide a reliable water supply source with a 50-mgd annual average daily safe yield that can be locally managed and controlled to meet the projected 2060 water supply shortage in Hall County, especially during drought periods.

The Corps Mobile District is currently working on updating its water control manual (WCM) for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin and the DEIS for the WCM Update evaluates the state of Georgia's water supply request (January 2013) for Lake Lanier and Upper Chattahoochee River. This request includes the construction and operation of Glades Reservoir. All alternatives include common water supply components such as additional water conservation and groundwater supply sources. A range of potential total Lake Lanier water supply allocations (18, 30, 42, and 60 mgd) for Gainesville/Hall County were considered in the Alternatives Analysis, resulting in a range of reservoir safe yields for meeting the projected future water supply needs.

This DEIS analyzes 13 alternatives: 1) Applicant's Proposed Project, 2) Alternative 1-Glades to provide 42 mgd safe yield through releases to Lake Lanier and withdrawal through the existing intake in Lake Lanier, 3) Alternative 2-Glades at 42 mgd with a raw water pipeline to Lakeside WTP, 4) Alternative 3-Glades at 42 mgd with a new WTP onsite, 5) Alternative 4-Glades at 30 mgd, 6) Alternative 5-Glades at 30 mgd with a raw water pipeline to Lakeside WTP, 7) Alternative 6-Glades at 30 mgd with a new WTP onsite, 8) Alternative 7-Glades at 17 mgd, 9) Alternative 8-Glades at 17 mgd with a raw water pipeline to Lakeside WTP, 10) Alternative 9-Glades at 17 mgd with a new WTP onsite, 11) Alternative 10-White Creek Reservoir at 17 mgd, 12) Alternative 11-White Creek Reservoir at 17 mgd with a raw water pipeline to Lakeside WTP, and 13) No Action Alternative, which reflects Applicant's stated course of action if it does not receive approval to construct Glades. The No Action Alternative is based on Hall County's indication that it would need to try to obtain all of its future water supply from Lake Lanier (60 mgd).

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Date by Which Comments are Due: December 29, 2015. Written comments should be received by close of business, 5 p.m. Please include your name and complete mailing address on all written comments.