

Chattahoochee River MER 2012 Action Alert

Headline:

Don't Let the Chattahoochee Get Sucked Dry

Take Action: Urge the Army Corps of Engineers to deny permits for new reservoirs that would destroy one of America's best trout streams and create even more water supply problems for Atlanta.

Target Decision-Maker:

Colonel Jeffrey M. Hall
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
100 West Oglethorpe Avenue
Savannah, Georgia 31401-3640
Email: jeffrey.m.hall@usace.army.mil

Subject: Deny Glades Reservoir and Bear Creek Reservoir Permits

Letter:

Dear [Decision-Maker]:

As a supporter of American Rivers, Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, and Trout Unlimited, I urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to deny the permit requests for Glades Reservoir (Hall County, GA) and Bear Creek Reservoir (Fulton County, GA), both projects to be located in the Chattahoochee River Basin.

The Chattahoochee River system is recognized for its beauty, outstanding recreational opportunities, and as a major drinking water source. Both pump-storage reservoirs are really amenity lakes for future development disguised as water supply sources. The projected water supply need for these projects is based on grossly inflated population growth data. The withdrawal of up to 140 million gallons of water per day from the Chattahoochee River and, on average, 5 million gallons per day lost to increased evaporation will significantly reduce flows in the river basin. Consistent flows and cool water temperatures are critical to maintain the robust wild brown trout population that led to the Chattahoochee River being recognized by Trout Unlimited as one of America's 100 Best Trout Streams, and the America's Great Waters Coalition list of America's Great Waters. For these reasons, Glades Reservoir and Bear Creek Reservoir do not meet the standard for permitting.

Rather, the region should maximize existing water supply sources such as Lake Lanier and take an aggressive stance on conservation and efficiency to generate large quantities of water at a fraction of the cost and with little or no environmental impact.

I strongly urge the Corps to deny the permit requests for Glades and Bear Creek reservoirs.