

SECTION 7: WATER QUANTITY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Background

This plan requires water users within defined water planning regions to collectively plan for the sustainable future use of the water resources that serve that planning region. The state will establish the water planning regions according to section 14 of this plan, and will provide regions with the water resource assessments for the sources within that area. The regional water development and conservation plans will use the water resource assessments, in combination with forecasts of future water demands, to identify the array of water quantity management practices that will be implemented to ensure that water demands are met in a sustainable manner. These management practices will largely address the management of consumptive use of water.

Meeting water demands in a sustainable manner will require managing the consumptive use of water. Managing consumptive use of a water source involves the integrated management of demands from that source, returns to that source, and actions taken to supplement the supply that source provides. Managing consumptive use also requires that other implications of consumption are considered, including the water quality implications. There are innumerable ways to combine sets of demand, return, and supply supplementation practices to ensure that future consumption from a water source does not exceed the capability of that source, and to ensure that proper attention has been given to protecting and preserving water quality.

A variety of water quantity management practices can be implemented to manage and use water resources in conformity with the integrated water policy established by this plan. The purpose of these practices is to manage the consumptive use of water from a given source in a sustainable manner by managing demand and returns or, when it can be done without unreasonably foreclosing opportunities for reasonable use by other water users, to supplement the consumptive use assessment of a water source. The process of preparing regional water plans will allow and encourage flexibility in selecting the appropriate mix of management practices for a given water source. It will also allow innovation in response to new information and changing conditions.

Policy: Water Quantity Management Practices

- (1) The purpose of water quantity management practices is to manage the consumptive use of water from a given source in a sustainable manner by managing demand and returns or, when it can be done without unreasonably foreclosing opportunities for other users and uses, to supplement the consumptive use assessment of a water source.
- (2) A variety of water quantity management practices may be implemented to manage and use water resources in conformity with Georgia's integrated water policy. These practices include but are not limited to:

- a. Water demand management practices, including water conservation and **water reuse**;
 - b. Water return management practices, including optimal management of centralized wastewater treatment facilities in compliance with local water and sewer service delivery strategies, on-site sewage management systems and land application systems; and
 - c. Water supply management practices, including the construction of **water supply reservoirs** and adoption of reservoir management policies that optimize water supply storage and maintain necessary flow regimes following specified criteria; interbasin transfers that meet specified criteria; and aquifer storage and recovery. These practices are addressed in sections 8 through 10 of this plan. Desalination may also be an important water supply management practice in the future.
- (3) Water conservation will be a priority water quantity management practice implemented to help meet water needs in all areas of the state, and will be practiced by all water use sectors.
 - (4) Other practices, included but not limited to those described here, will be implemented as consistent with the regional water development and conservation plans adopted by the Division, pursuant to section 14 of this plan.

Implementation Actions

Implementation actions for specific management practices are described in sections 8 through 10.