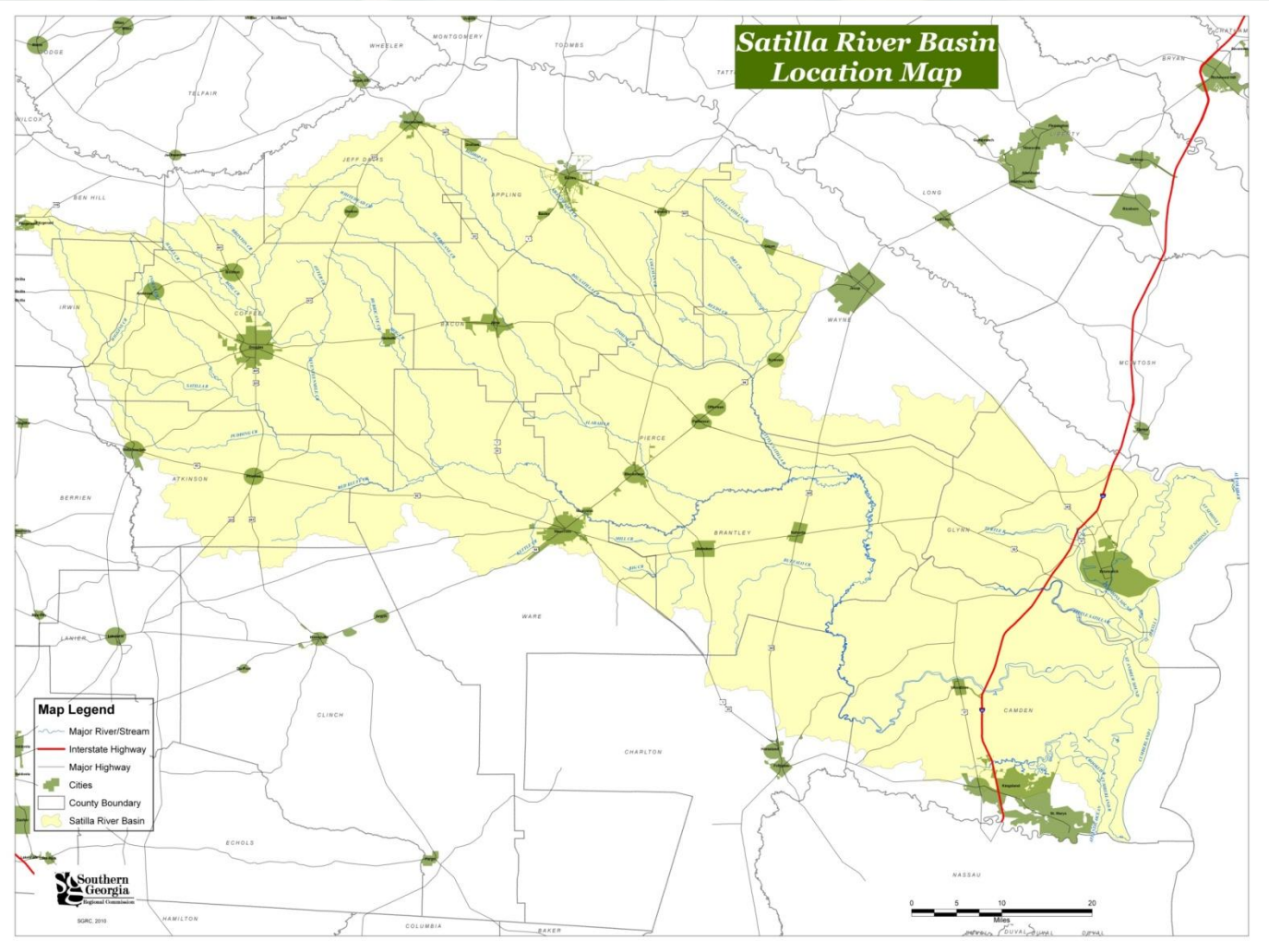
SATILLA WATERSHED RECONNAISSANCE STUDY

Savannah District

May 12, 2014

US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG®

Satilla Watershed



Satilla Watershed

The Satilla Watershed study can address a range of water resources problems & solutions to multiple interconnected system objectives over the entire watershed.

What is a Watershed Study?

- A Federal and non-Federal partnership that conducts a comprehensive view of project planning in a broad, integrated systems context.
- A Watershed Study results in holistic plans or strategies that can recommend programs and initiation of site-specific project implementation studies.
- The end result can be a report for information to Congress or a Corps project for design and construction.

Why are Watershed Studies Valuable?

- Tools developed during Watershed Studies such as hydraulic models, project databases, and flood response measures provide invaluable products with continued use.
- Avoids duplication of efforts
- Provides a joint vision for a region reflecting interest of all agencies and stakeholders
- Can align programs and comprehensive plans
- Watershed studies can provide a mechanism to coordinate Federal resources and actions across multiple areas.
- Overcome agency boundaries/missions to collaborate and produce integrated solutions.

General Challenges for Watershed Planning

- Population growth/urbanization concentrated in coastal areas
- Increasing demand for water
- Increasing impacts and costs associated with disasters
- Federal budget declining
- Global competitiveness

Corps Missions That Can Be Analyzed

Flood Risk Management

- Reduce the threat to loss of life and financial losses incurred from flood and erosion damages.
- Inventory flood & erosion damages
- Analyze structural and non-structural alternative solutions
- Assess and prevent erosion damage
- Plan for joint emergency preparedness and response

Corps Missions That Can Be Analyzed

Ecosystem Restoration

- Conduct an inventory of significant resources to guide restoration & management strategies.
- Develop system-wide management plan to link existing habitat fragments, preserve the integrity of natural communities/ecosystems & provide wildlife corridors.

Corps Missions That Can Be Analyzed

Ecosystem Restoration (continued)

- Basin-wide Sediment Management Plan to protect & improve the health of the watershed & its ecosystems.

- Identify & evaluate opportunities to improve the water quality of storm water and/or agricultural runoff & reduce non-point source pollution.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species

- Frosted Flatwood Salamander
- Eastern Indigo Snake
- Wood Stork
- Red-cockaded Woodpecker
- Redbreast Sunfish

And many others…

Corps Missions That Can Be Analyzed

- Water Supply
- Recreation
- Navigation
- Coastal Storm Damage
- Emergency Streambank and Shore Protection
- Snagging and Clearing for Flood Risk Management

Systems That Can Be Analyzed

- River and drainage
- Geomorphic and subterranean resources
- Weather (including climate change)
- Transportation
- Power grids
- Water supply and wastewater
- Economic
- Institutional and legal
- Regulatory framework
- Other needs of the watershed effort

Recon Phase

- A Recon Report is prepared to determine if there is Federal interest in proceeding with a Feasibility Study.
- The Recon phase is 100% Federally-Funded.
- Duration of Recon phase is no longer than 18 months

Preparing the Recon Analysis

- Use existing, readily-available data
- Sources
  - Potential non-federal sponsor
  - Other agencies
  - Stakeholders
  - State & local government agencies
- Include additional info only when the information is required for determining if the problems warrant Federal participation

Questions for Discussion

- What are the perceived watershed problems?
- What is your interest in resolving the problems?
- What are the needs and opportunities in the watershed?
- What do you think are the objectives of the study?
- What do you think the possible solutions are?
- What data and information do you have available?
- What past and ongoing studies do you have available?
- What are the risks and uncertainties?