

Suwannee – Satilla Basins Regional Flooding

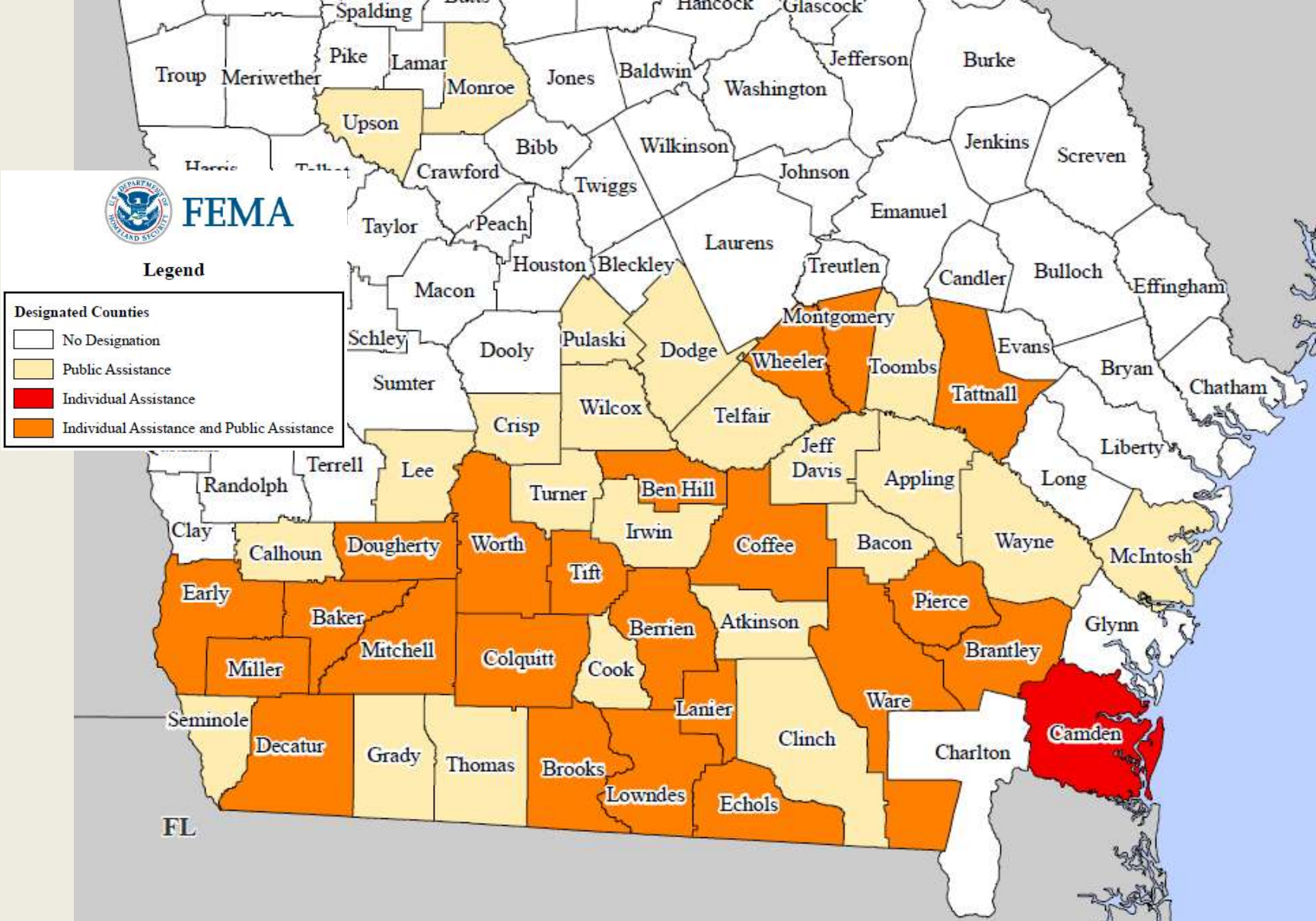
Office of Governor Deal

Atlanta, Georgia

May 8, 2013

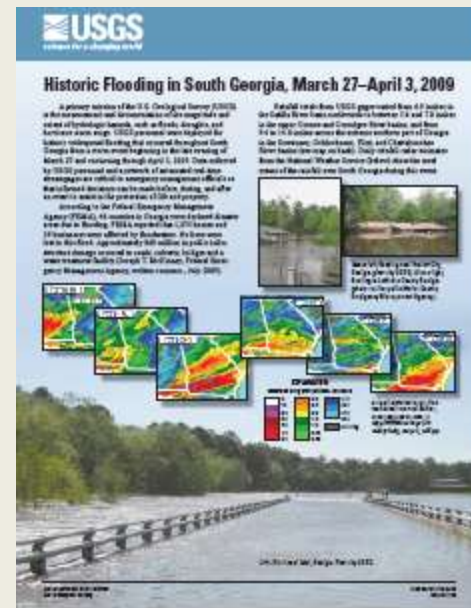
PRESIDENT OBAMA DECLARED

46 GEORGIA COUNTIES MAJOR DISASTER AREAS



USGS RAINFALL GAGES RECORDED SIGNIFICANT RAINFALL BETWEEN MARCH 27 – APRIL 3

- 6.9 inches – Satilla River (Atkinson)
- 7.2 inches – Satilla River (Waycross)
- 13.3 inches – Alapaha River (Alapaha)
- 14 inches – Little River (Adel)
- 9.4 inches – Withlacoochee River (Quitman)
- 8.7 inches – Withlacoochee River (Valdosta)



THE USGS PUBLISHED A FACT SHEET (2009 – 3079) THAT REPORTED THE FOLLOWING DAMAGE IN 46 COUNTIES DECLARED DISASTER AREAS:

- 1,875 homes
- 29 businesses
- \$60 million in public infrastructure (e.g. roads, culverts, bridges and a wastewater treatment facility)

2009 Event



US Highway 84 / Lowndes County
Courtesy of Valdosta Daily Times



Lake Drive / Winding Way – City of Valdosta
Courtesy of City of Valdosta



Park Lane – City of Valdosta
Courtesy of Valdosta Daily Times



Franks Creek – City of Hahira
Courtesy of Valdosta Daily Times

WITHLACOOCHEE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT



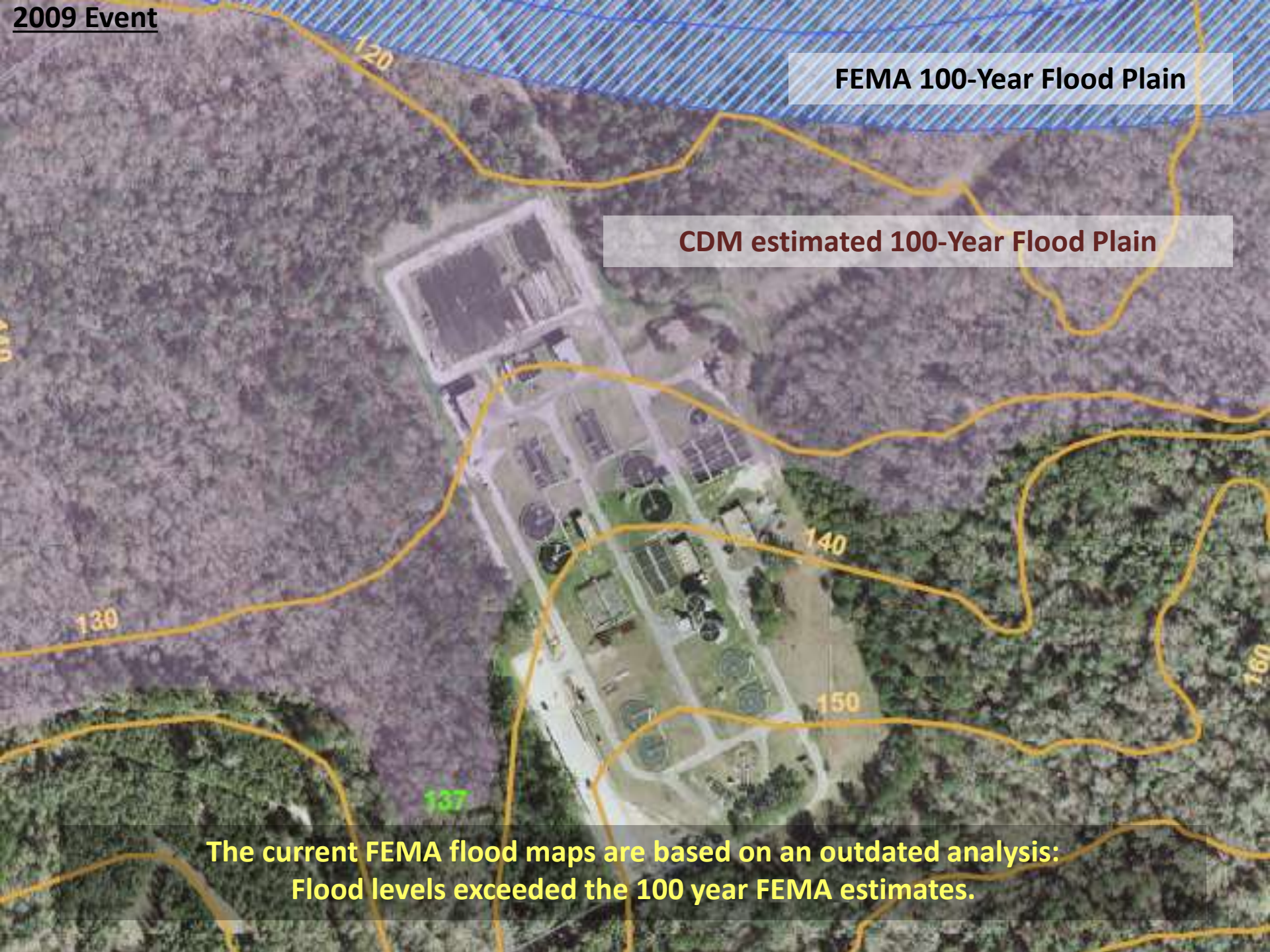
Before



During

FEMA 100-Year Flood Plain

CDM estimated 100-Year Flood Plain



**The current FEMA flood maps are based on an outdated analysis:
Flood levels exceeded the 100 year FEMA estimates.**

2009 Event



City of Douglas / Coffee County
Courtesy of FEMA



City of Tifton / Tift County
Courtesy of Tifton Gazette



City of Waycross / Ware County
Courtesy of First Coast News / Richard Edgy

2012 FLOOD EVENT TIFTON / TIFT COUNTY



City of Tifton/ Tift County
Courtesy of WALB 10



City of Tifton / Tift County
Courtesy of tiftontalks.com



City of Tifton/ Tift County
Courtesy of WALB 10

FEBRUARY 2013 FLOOD EVENT

- Withlacoochee waste water treatment plant had to be shut down
- Numerous locations throughout Lowndes County were flooded
- 13 roads / bridges closed in Lowndes County, including US-84



Gornto Road



Meadowbrook Drive



YMCA



Franks Creek Bridge



Jumping Gulley Road



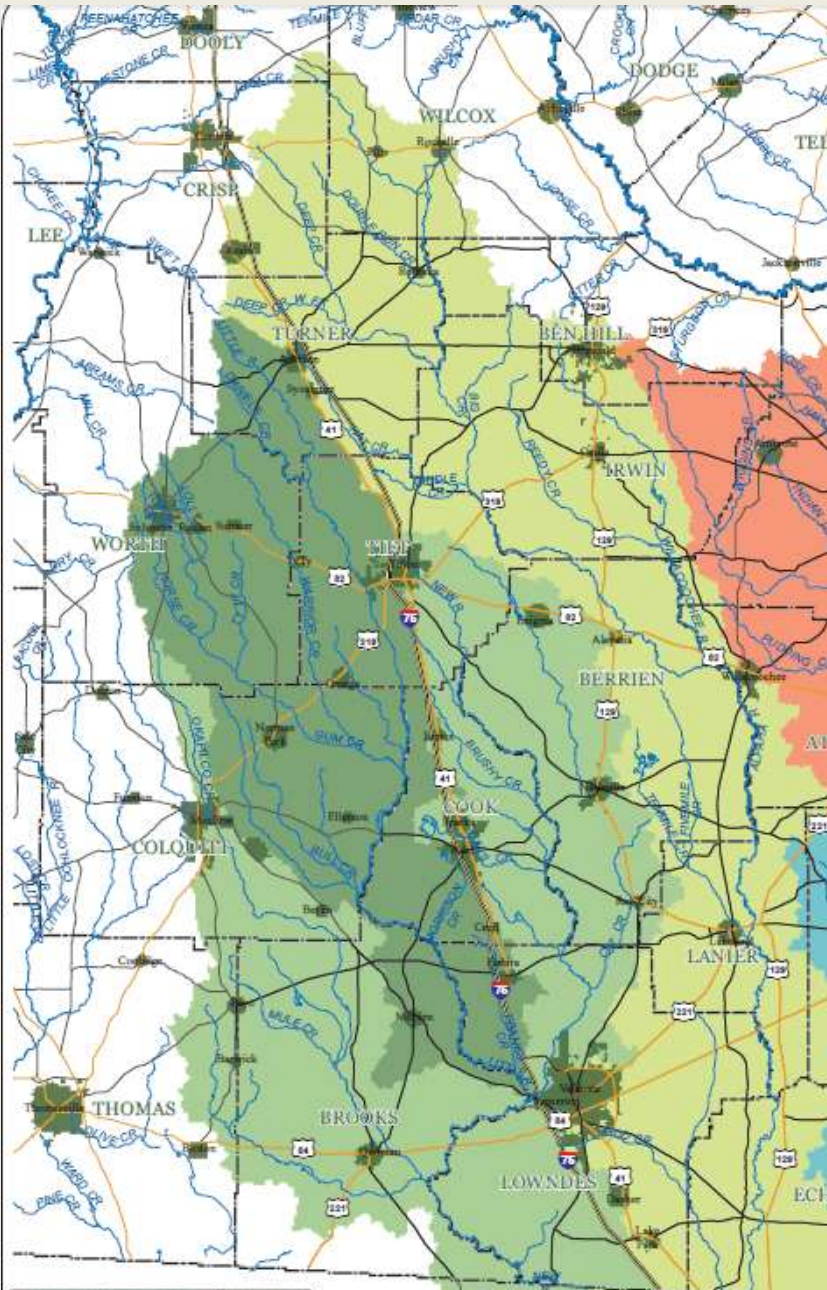
Rocky Ford Road

2013 Event



Reed Bingham State Park / Cook County
Courtesy of WALB 10

2013 Event



Rainfall records from February 21st to 27th show a recurrence interval ranging from 3 to 50 years

Satilla River (Atkinson)	6.0 in
Satilla River (Waycross)	5.9 in
Alapaha River (Alapaha)	7.8 in
Little River (Adel)	11.1 in
Withlacoochee River (Quitman)	8.8 in
Withlacoochee River (Valdosta)	7.1 in

Alapaha River sub-watershed:

- 1,720 sq miles
- 17 sq miles of Valdosta drains to the Alapaha

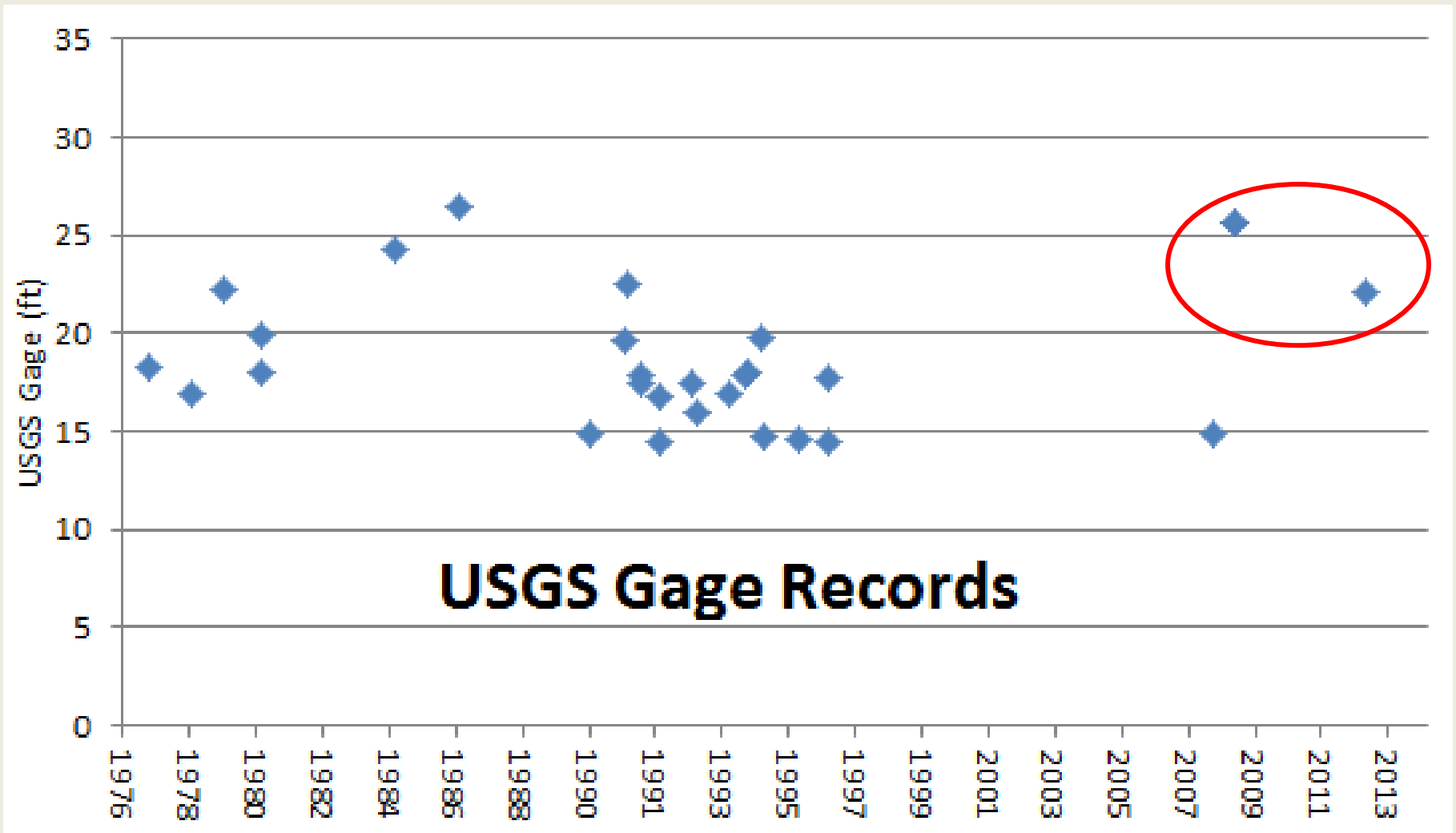
Withlacoochee River sub-watershed:

- 1,295 sq miles
- 20 sq miles of Valdosta drains to the Withlacoochee

Little River sub-watershed:

- 891 sq miles

THE 2009 AND 2013 HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON VALDOSTA / LOWNDES AND WERE ONLY 4 YEARS APART



REGIONAL EFFORTS BY THE CITY SINCE THE 2009 FLOOD

- **2009**
 - Presentation at State Legislative Delegation Luncheon
- **2010**
 - Letter to regional Community Leaders encouraging them to participate in the Suwannee – Satilla Regional Water Planning Council Meeting in Tifton
 - Presentation at the Suwannee – Satilla Regional Water Planning Council Meeting in Douglas
- **2011**
 - Submitted public comments to EPD in response to the Suwannee – Satilla Recommended Regional Water Plan
 - Presentation to Governor Nathan Deal and staff
 - Presentation at the Suwannee – Satilla Regional Watershed Meeting in Tifton
 - Recommendation included:
 - Identifying storage areas to control storm water flows, while providing a much needed water supply reservoir network
 - Seek state and federal funding
 - Stream restoration in select areas that are degrading and releasing significant sediment and debris loads.

SINCE THE FEBRUARY 2013 EVENT

- The City of Valdosta sent a letter on March 11, 2013 to USACE
- The USACE responded on March 15, 2013 and a meeting with the Silver Jackets Program was scheduled April 11, 2013

Silver Jackets teams are collaborative state-led interagency teams, continuously working together to reduce flood risk at the state level. Often, no single agency has the complete solution, but each may have one or more pieces to contribute. Through partnerships, Silver Jackets optimizes the multi-agency utilization of federal resources by leveraging state/local/Tribal resources, including data/information, talent and funding, and preventing duplication of effort.

ATTENDEES REPRESENTED

- City of Tifton
- City of Valdosta
- GEMA
- Georgia DNR
- Georgia EPD
- Lowndes County
- Office of Congressman Austin Scott
- Office of Congressman Jack Kingston
- Office of Congressman Sanford Bishop
- Office of Senator Johnny Isakson
- Office of Senator Saxby Chambliss
- Southern Georgia Regional Commission
- Suwannee Satilla Water Planning Council
- Tift County
- USACE (Jacksonville and Savannah offices)
- USGS

POTENTIAL FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO FLOODS

1. Outdated flood map information does not provide a valid planning tool.
2. Increase in impervious areas over the years throughout the region.
3. Different runoff control measures implemented, without regional coordination.
4. Some of the existing dams and levees can release significant volumes of water and require coordination and advance notice to downstream communities.
5. Increased frequency rainfall amounts



LONG TERM ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Coordination with FEMA/GEMA to update flood maps as part of the Risk Map program
2. Watershed study
 - Data Collection (LiDAR, land use)
 - Engineering evaluation
 - Geomorphologic evaluation (fallen trees, dredging)
3. Development of cost estimate for regional alternatives
4. Seek funding



SHORT TERM ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Conduct a discovery process with communities and agencies to gather available data and studies.
2. Development of interim criteria to determine flood elevations for planning purposes.
3. Coordination with GEMA to mobilize and alert residents of upcoming floods.
4. Acquisition/Relocation of repetitive loss properties. Potential cost share from hazard mitigation grants.
5. Enroll communities in the FEMA CRS program to reduce flood insurance policies, and improve coordination with FEMA and the community.



KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM MEETING

Action Item #1

- Submit a letter requesting the Silver Jackets serve as the lead on this regional effort to address flooding

Action Item #2

- Meeting with USGS to discuss flood warning and response

Action Item #3

- EPD will discuss with DNR the Reed Bingham dam and O/M

ADDITIONAL ITEMS / DISCUSSION

- FEMA – FIRM Maps
- USACE – Tree loss and sedimentation removal
- Regional Coordination
 - Southern Georgia Regional Commission
 - Suwannee Satilla Water Planning Council
 - Georgia / Florida Silver Jackets

SINCE THE MEETING ON APRIL 11TH

- **PAS Program:** City of Valdosta working with USACE on an agreement for the Planning Assistance to the States (PAS) Program for a Flood Risk Management Study.
- **Flood Preparedness:** Pre-planning meeting with the USGS, National Weather Service, DNR, USACE, and SRWMD to assist with flood preparedness for the surrounding counties. The regional meeting will be held on June 25th in Valdosta.
- **Florida Partnership:** USACE staff met with the Florida Silver Jackets and shared with them, as well as staff from the SRWMD and the Department of Emergency Management about the regional interests and efforts being made.
- **LiDAR:** There is a need for LiDAR and discussions are taking place currently on possible projects to partner with.

ASSISTANCE FROM GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

- **Support of Regional Effort**
- **Financial Assistance**
 - **PAS Program:** This is a 50/50 cost share program and the proposed scope is for \$150,000. The City is working to provide in-kind services to help keep the cash cost down.
 - **LiDAR:** Based on preliminary estimates, there is a \$25,000 set up cost and LiDAR would start at \$275 per square mile
 - Lowndes County: \$136,400
 - Cook County: \$62,700
 - Tift County: \$71,225
- **Funding for Identified Capital Projects Consistent with the Statewide Water Management Plan**

QUESTIONS

LARRY HANSON, CITY MANAGER

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