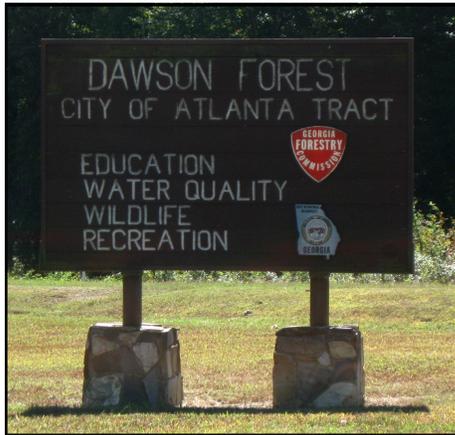


DAM IN DAWSON FOREST TO WIPE OUT ENDANGERED SPECIES, 1,200 ACRES OF FOREST AND... PIPE 100 MILLION GALLONS A DAY TO METRO ATLANTA



Background: Private companies and the Etowah Water and Sewer Authority in Dawson County want to construct a 1,221-acre reservoir in the Dawson Forest Wildlife Management Area (WMA), a 10,000-acre tract of land owned by the City of Atlanta's Airport Authority. Once the possible site of Atlanta's second airport, the property is now leased to Georgia's Department of Natural Resources. Maintained as a WMA, the property attracts thousands of hikers, bikers, horseback riders, anglers, hunters and boaters each year.

Reservoir proponents are now courting the City of Atlanta to sell the property or enter into a water-selling partnership. Water from the Etowah and Amicalola rivers would be pumped to fill the reservoir to be built on Shoal Creek, a major creek feeding the Etowah. Once stored in the Shoal Creek Reservoir, the water would then be pumped dozens of miles south to Metro Atlanta. Supporters of the dam and reservoir want to pipe up to 100 million gallons a day (MGD) to Metro Atlanta via an interbasin transfer.

The project is touted as an essential water supply project—especially if a federal court order stands that would greatly restrict how much water Metro Atlanta communities could take from Lake Lanier and the Chattahoochee River.

What's Wrong With this Project? PLENTY!

Endangered Species: Shoal Creek is considered Priority 1 habitat for two federally protected fish species—the Etowah and Cherokee darters. You could hardly pick a worse place for a dam and reservoir in the Upper Etowah River basin. Construction of the reservoir would destroy one of the few remaining undisturbed habitats for these fish which are found only in the Etowah River Basin—and no where else in the world.



Etowah darters make their home in Shoal Creek.

Massive Water Withdrawal From A Small River: A daily withdrawal of 100 MGD from the Etowah River at Shoal Creek would consume more than one-fourth of the river's volume during the winter months when river flows peak. During the dry season from July through November, a 100 MGD withdrawal would consume almost 100 percent of the river's volume.



Shoal Creek would be dammed to create the reservoir.

Interbasin Transfer: Developers of this project are flaunting state laws prohibiting interbasin transfers. Currently, a law passed in 2001 prohibits water transfers from outside the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District into the District. This dam and reservoir would be built outside the District (Dawson County) and the water would be pumped into the District (Forsyth and Fulton counties).

This water transfer would divert 100 MGD from Lake Allatoona and prevent the use of this water by downstream communities, potentially impacting economic development in Cherokee, Cobb, Bartow and Floyd counties.

Cost of Construction V. Water Conservation: With a predicted price tag of \$650 million, much of the cost of constructing this reservoir will be born by water users and taxpayers. Water conservation and efficiency, coupled with the wise use of existing water supply reservoirs, would eliminate the need for this expensive and environmentally damaging project. Through aggressive water conservation, communities in Metro Atlanta could create some 133 MGD in water savings at a cost of about \$134 million.

What Can I Do to Stop This Dam? Tell your elected officials you oppose this project, mobilize your neighbors in opposition and join one or all of the organizations working to stop this ill-conceived project: Coosa River Basin Initiative, Georgia Conservancy and the Sierra Club.