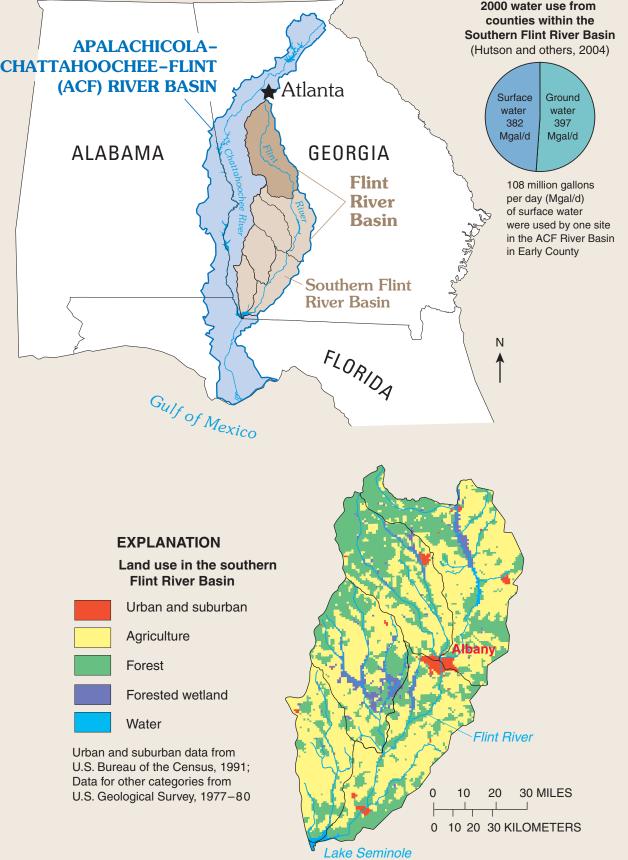
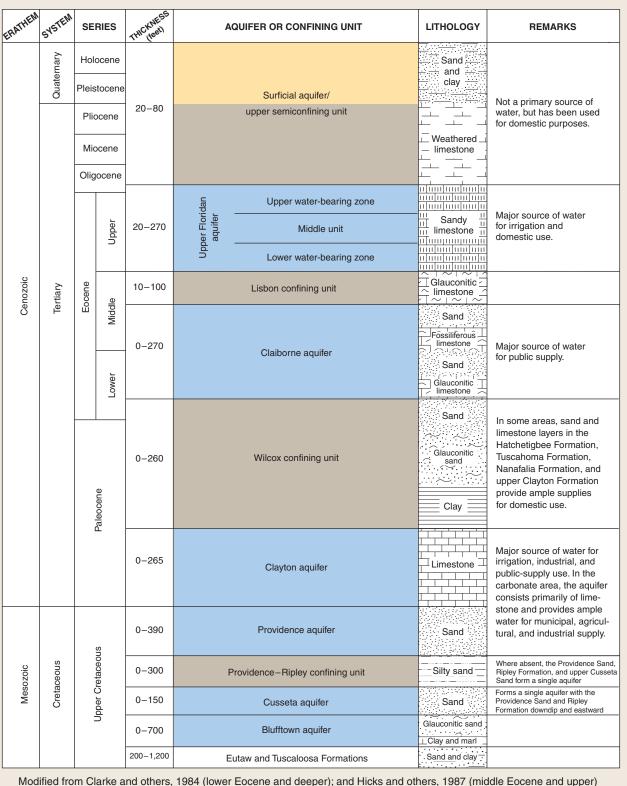
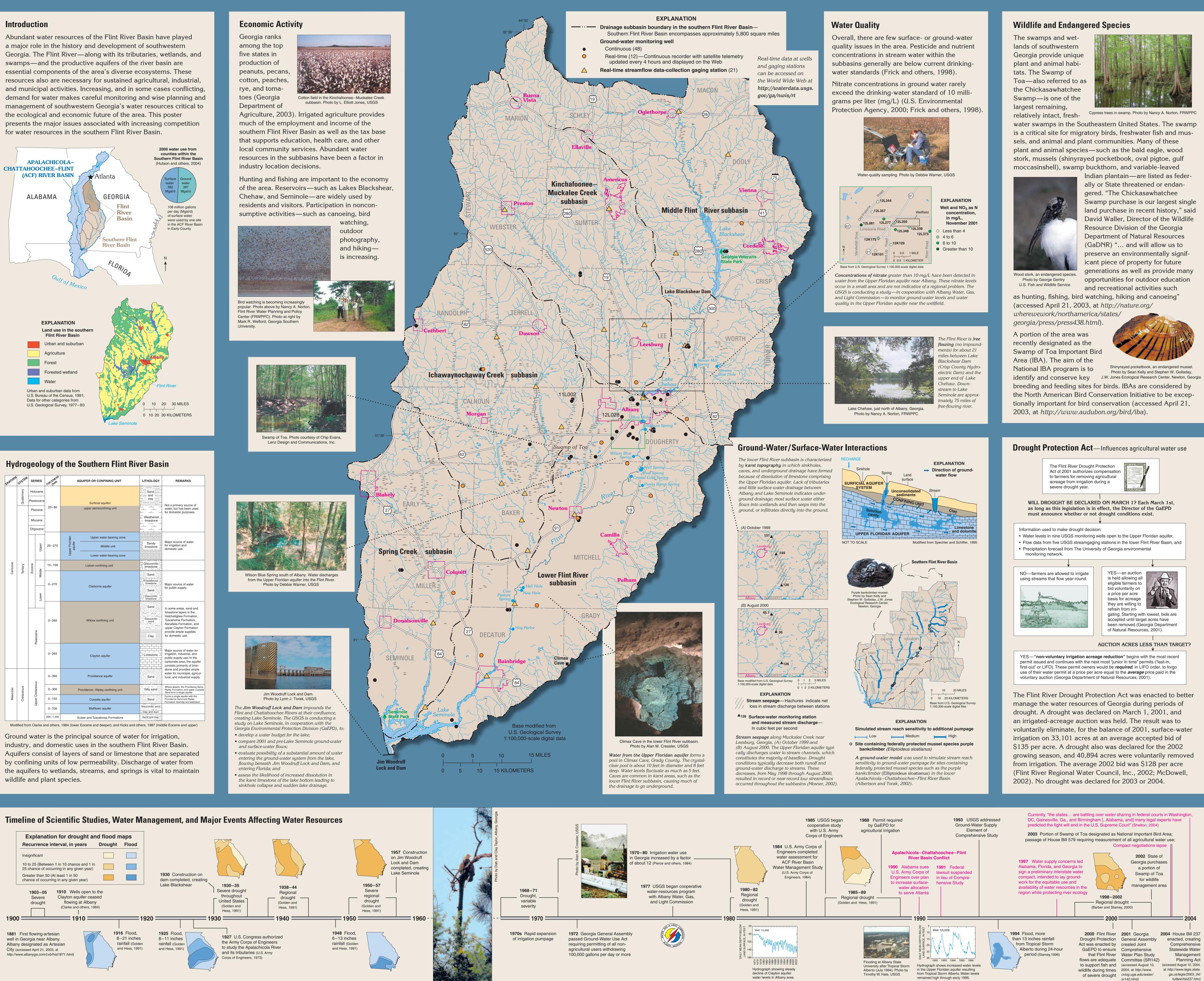


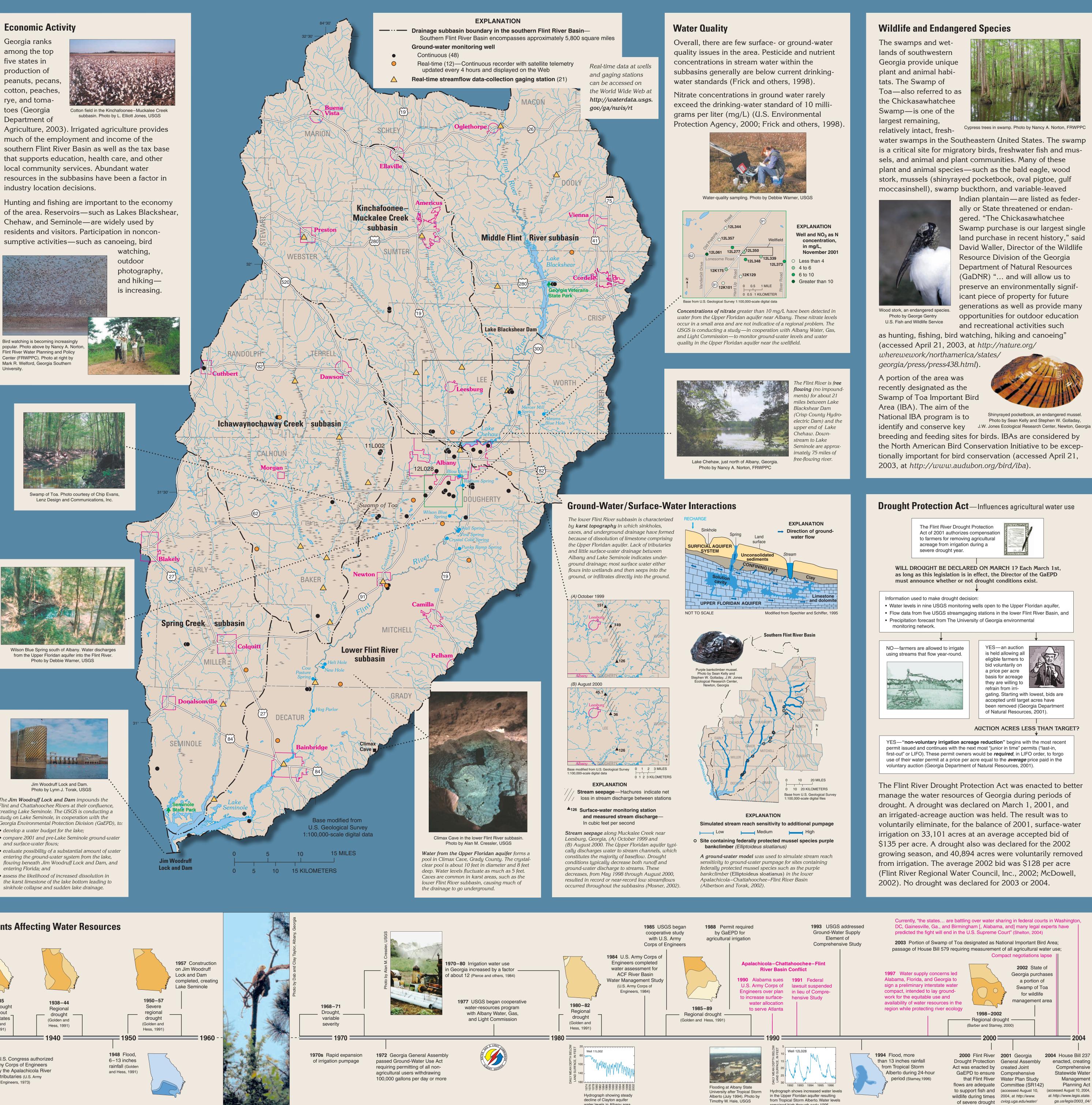
Water—Essential Resource of the Southern Flint River Basin, Georgia



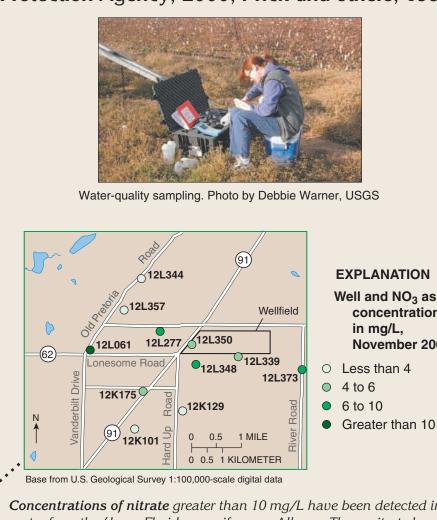


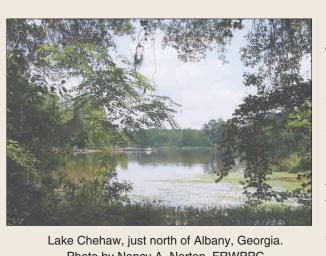


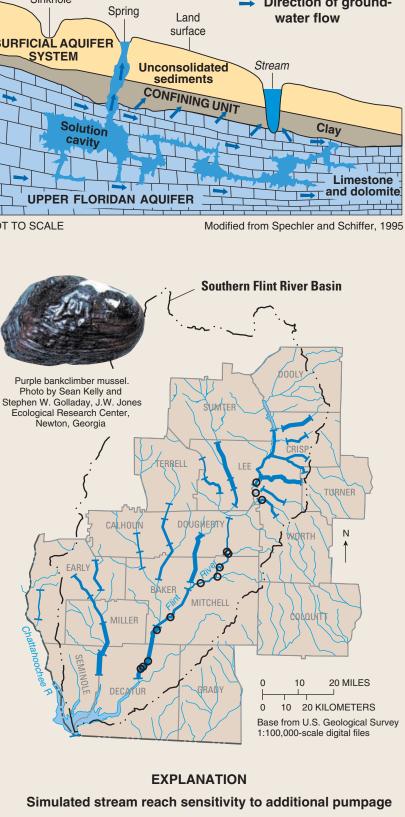




















What Is Being Done to Protect Water Resources? Scientific Studies and Monitoring

To ensure that adequate water supplies are available in southwestern Georgia, the GaEPD—in cooperation with the USGS has implemented scientific studies to better understand the hydrologic system in the southern Flint River Basin. In these studies. researchers are:

- Collecting new hydraulic-property data for the Upper Floridan and surficial aquifers:
- Obtaining accurate locations of pumping wells;
- Collecting and compiling ground-water-level, stream seepage, and offstream spring-discharge data; and
- Developing a transient finite-element model of ground-water flow to simulate seasonal ground-water levels, streamaquifer interaction, and pumping-induced streamflow reduction. Computer simulations are used to help scientifically predict future water availability.

In addition to these scientific studies, the USGS—in cooperation with the GaEPD—operates continuous streamflow and ground-water-level monitoring networks in the southern Flint River Basin. Many of the sites are "real time" and are linked by satellite telemetry (http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ga/nwis/rt). These data provide water planners with information necessary to manage the area's water resources.

Agricultural Water Conservation

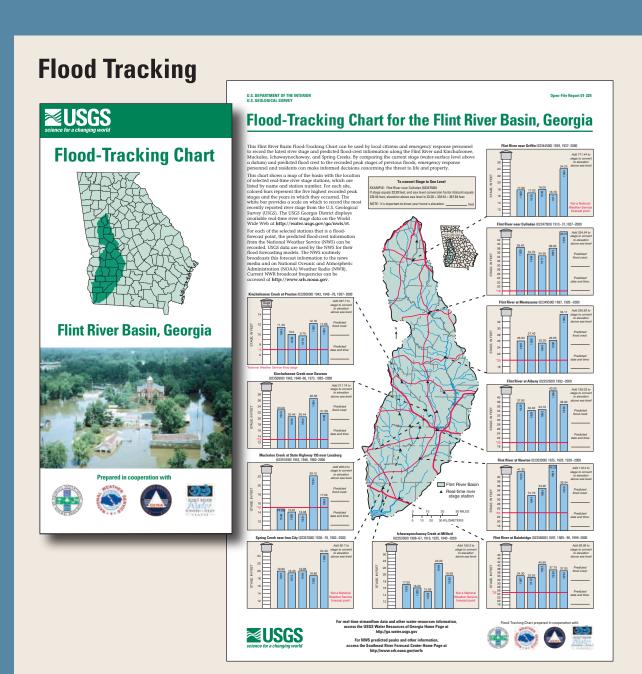
Irrigation is costly, so farmers are enhancing the efficiency of irrigation water use by installing low-pressure nozzles and endoun shutoffs, and improving uniformity and efficiency of their systems (Flint River Regional Water Council, 2001).



Center-pivot irrigation Photo by Mark Masters, FRWPPC

Several organizations in the area work together to provide irrigation management and technology development research to assist farmers in improving efficiency of agricultural water use and enhance net revenue. These organizations include: • Albany State University, Flint River Water Planning and

- Policy Center; • Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission;
- U.S. Department of Agriculture National Peanut Research Laboratory; and
- The University of Georgia, Stripling Irrigation Research Park.



Floods have played an important role in Georgia's history. The USGS—in cooperation with other Federal, State, and local agencies—operates a Flood Monitoring System in the Flint River Basin. To receive a copy of the above *Flood-Tracking* Chart—Flint River Basin, Georgia (Cochran and others, 2001) which includes flood emergency phone numbers and a chart for recording current stage to compare to predicted flood crest contact the USGS Georgia District Office at 770-903-9100 or at http://ga2.er.usgs.gov/HydroWatch/FloodTracking.cfm. Real-time river-stage data can be accessed at http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ga/nwis/rt

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U.S. Department of the Interior

Gale A. Norton, Secretary

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U.S. Geological Survey

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