

## 8. Glossary of Key Terms

The following definitions apply to key terms used in this report:

1. *Basic nodes* are locations of interest on rivers or major tributary streams where unimpaired flows were derived. In most instances, basic nodes are located at or near USGS stream gages or at dams.
2. *Basins* or *river basins* are individual river or major tributary watersheds within study basins, e.g., Chattahoochee River basin and Savannah River basin in the ACF and SO study basins, respectively.
3. *Consumptive water use* is net aggregated withdrawals minus returns upstream of basic or planning nodes.
4. *Cumulative unimpaired flows* are upstream incremental unimpaired flows that have been combined and routed to downstream nodes.
5. *Holdouts* are changes in storage in upstream reservoirs applied to observed flows in determination of unimpaired flows.
6. *Incremental flows* are reach inflows from local drainage areas; incremental flows may be observed or unimpaired, depending on whether effects of human uses of water and reservoir regulation are included.
7. *Local drainage areas* are intervening watersheds between basic nodes, or total drainage area above the most upstream basic node.
8. *Period of record* is the January 1, 1939 to December 31, 2007 period for which unimpaired flows were derived.
9. *Planning nodes* are basic nodes where water availability assessments are performed; one or more basic nodes may be interspersed between planning nodes. An exception to the planning-basic node correspondence is a *virtual planning node* located at or near the most downstream Georgia location (in some cases outside of Georgia) on rivers for which no observed stream flow data are available. Planning nodes have been located insofar as possible to avoid separation of major utility withdrawals and returns, and to avoid separation of planning regions and municipalities served by multiple water utilities.
10. *Reaches* are river or tributary segments and contributing local drainage areas between adjacent nodes (basic or planning), or above the most upstream node (basic or planning); reaches are designated by downstream node.
11. *Study basins* are the six major composite river basins designated by Georgia EPD for surface water availability assessment. Study basins are delineated based on hydrologic, topographic, water resource development, water use, and other important considerations in regional planning. Study basin designations are as follows:

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**Synopsis of Surface Water Availability Assessment**

ACF – Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin

ACT – Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa River Basin

OOA –Oconee- Ocmulgee-Altamaha River Basin

OSSS – Ochlockonee, Suwanee, Satilla, and St. Mary's River Basins

SO – Savannah and Ogeechee River Basins

TN – Tennessee River Basin

12. *Sub-basins* are intervening watersheds between planning nodes, or total drainage area above the most upstream planning node.
13. *Unimpaired flows* are historically observed flows with effects of reservoir holdouts, releases from storage, and surface evaporation, and water consumed by municipal and industrial, thermal power, and agricultural water uses removed.