



# GIEC Annual General Membership Meeting 2021

## Georgia EPD Watershed Protection Branch

**November 16, 2021**

**Jac Capp**

# Organization Update

- Johanna Smith, Program Manager, Watershed Compliance Program
- Zoom phones
- SignNow
- Virtual meetings
- Significant Rules/Guidance/Permitting/Procedures in 2022
  - Triennial Review
  - Water Quality Trading guidance
  - Renew ISW General Permit

# US EPA National Compliance Initiatives

- Every few years EPA establishes National Compliance Initiatives (formerly known as National Enforcement Initiatives)
- What are EPA's National Compliance Initiatives (NCIs)?
  - Agency planning document that and does not impose any legally binding requirements
  - Focuses enforcement and compliance resources on the most serious environmental violations
- Wastewater Initiatives
  - NPDES
    - Reducing Significant Noncompliance (SNC) with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits
    - The goal is to reduce by half the national SNC baseline rate of 29.4 percent by the end of FY2022, while assuring that the worst SNC violators are timely and appropriately addressed. The NCI will focus on all facilities in significant noncompliance with their permits, not just industrial contributors.
    - SNC rate in GA is so low, EPA not planning any inspections under this initiative

# Environmental Justice

- Environmental Justice is a priority of the Biden Administration.
- The latest from EPA on this subject is an April 30, 2021 memo from Lawrence Starfield: *Strengthening Enforcement in Communities with Environmental Justice Concerns*. This memo includes the following goals:
  - Increase number of facility inspections in overburdened communities. EPA is presently evaluating baseline conditions and plans to set new inspection goals once they have that information.
  - Strengthen enforcement in overburdened communities by resolving environmental noncompliance through remedies with tangible benefits for the community.
  - Increase engagement with communities about enforcement cases that most directly impact them.

# Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards

# Revisions Prompted by EPA recommendations for WQS

Adding the following EPA recommended criteria to 391-3-6-.03 (5)(e)(iii): General Criteria for All Waters

- [2009 EPA Acrolein Aquatic Life Criteria](#)
  - Acrolein (CAS RN1 107-02-8)
    - (a) Freshwater 3.0 µg/L
- [2012 EPA Carbaryl Aquatic Life Criteria](#)
  - Carbaryl (CAS RN1 63-25-2)
    - (a) Freshwater 2.1 µg /L
    - (b) Coastal and Estuarine Waters 1.6 µg /L





# Additional Changes

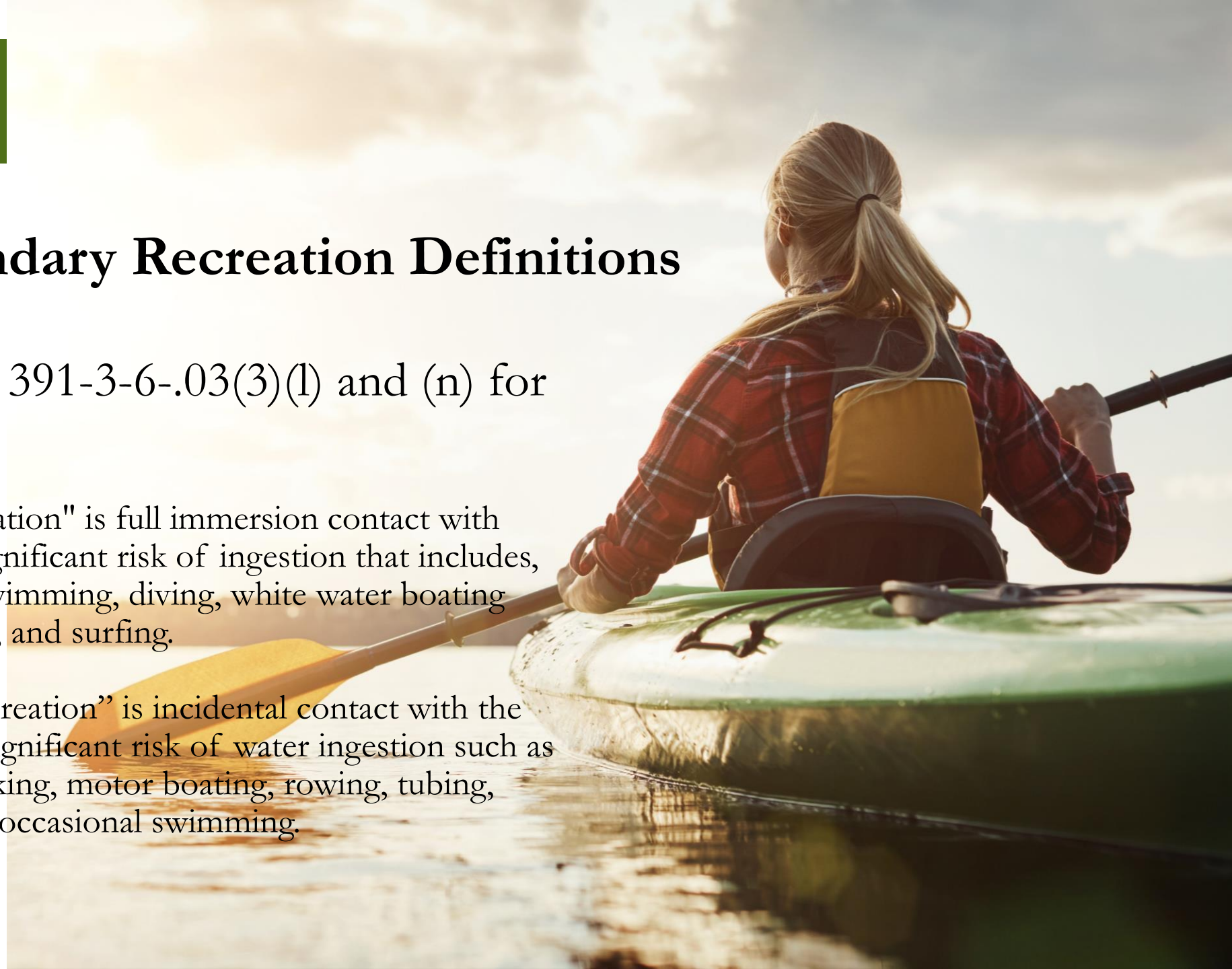
- Replace “Use Classifications” with “Designated Uses”
- Add Recreation Definitions
- Add Water Effect Ratio to Metal Equations
- Add Site Specific Metal Criteria Based on BLM and WER
- Propose Drinking Water and Fishing Bacteria Criteria
- Propose Lakes Oconee and Sinclair Criteria
- Public Requests to Change Designated Use to Recreation for Certain Water Bodies





# Primary and Secondary Recreation Definitions

- Adding definitions to 391-3-6-.03(3)(l) and (n) for clarification:
  - "Primary contact recreation" is full immersion contact with water where there is significant risk of ingestion that includes, but is not limited to, swimming, diving, white water boating (class 3+), water skiing, and surfing.
  - "Secondary contact recreation" is incidental contact with the water not involving a significant risk of water ingestion such as canoeing, fishing, kayaking, motor boating, rowing, tubing, splashing, wading, and occasional swimming.







# Bacteria Criteria

- Proposing E. coli and enterococci criteria for Drinking Water and Fishing to 391-3-6-.03(6)(a)(i) and (6)(c)(i).
- Recreation designated use currently has E. coli and enterococci criteria.
- These proposed criteria were calculated based on a study in EPA's [Exposure Factors Handbook, Chapter 3](#). Based on the water ingestion rates from this study, bacteria criteria for winter-time secondary contact recreation are 2.1 times higher than bacteria criteria for primary contact recreation.
- Draft Implementation Strategy available online. Stakeholder meeting December 14 at 10am.

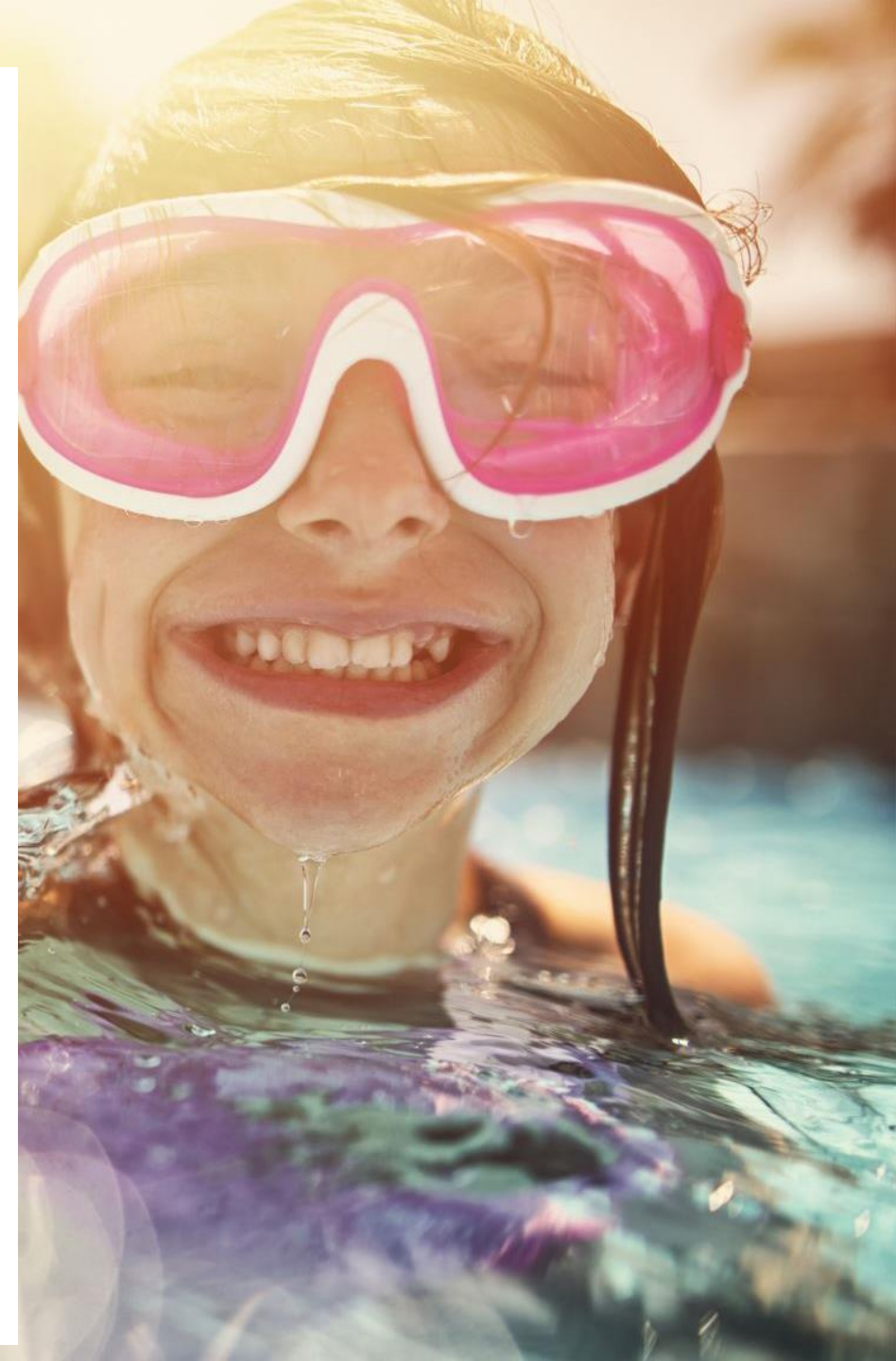
# Lakes Oconee and Sinclair

- Adding Lakes Oconee and Sinclair to 391-3-6-.03(17): Specific Criteria for Lakes and Major Lake Tributaries.
- We are adopting site specific chlorophyll *a* and pH criteria for Lakes Oconee and Sinclair.
- Once chlorophyll *a* criteria are adopted, nutrient limits will be implemented in NPDES permits where necessary as they are renewed to ensure chlorophyll *a* criteria is met.



# Designated Use Change

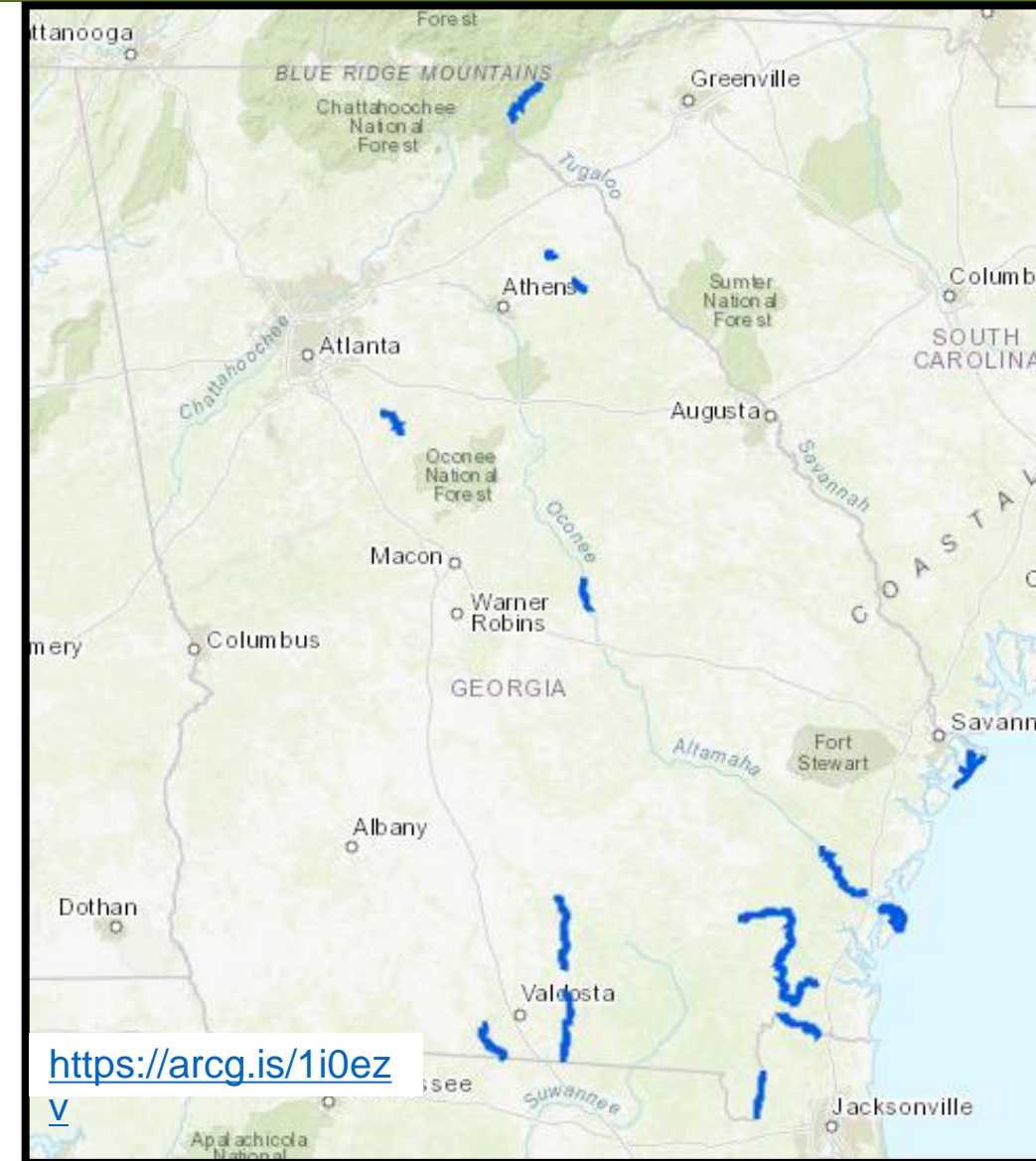
- Public nominated 2662 river miles
- EPD prioritized waterbodies (804 river miles)
- EPD recommending 14 waterbody segments (407 miles) based on evaluation of nomination packages received
  - These waterbodies met all requirements for a designated use change to recreation:
    - Year-round primary contact recreation
    - Planned or current investments
    - Stakeholder and/or community support
  - No stakeholder opposition
- Waterbodies with incomplete nomination packages and on-going stakeholder discussions, as well as those not prioritized for evaluation under the 2019 Triennial Review can be considered in the upcoming 2022 Triennial Review. EPD will also consider any newly nominated waterbodies at that time.





# Waterbodies Being Changed in 391-3-6-.03(14) to Include Recreation

- Alapaha River - Cherry Creek to Stateline
- Alapaha River - Willacoochee River to Dampier Branch
- Altamaha River - Doctors Creek to Butler River
- Broad River - Comer-Carlton Rd (Athens Hwy) to Mill Branch
- Broad River - Wildcat Bridge Rd. to Scull Shoal Creek
- Chattooga River - confluence with West Fork Chattooga to Tugalo Lake
- Little St. Simons Island - Littoral waters on the ocean and sound side of Little St. Simons Island
- Oconee River - Dead River to Flat Creek
- Satilla River - Alabaha River to Woodbine boat ramp at Hwy 17
- South River - Honey Creek (Henry County) to Lake Jackson at GA Hwy 36
- St. Marys River - Deep Creek to Boone Creek
- St. Marys River - Prospect Landing Rd. to Little St. Marys River
- Wassaw Sound - Open Sea and littoral waters of Wassaw and Little Tybee Islands
- Withlacoochee River - Tiger Creek to State Line



# Items Not Being Adopted

- Aquatic Life Ambient Water Quality Criterion for Selenium - Freshwater 2016
- Final Aquatic Life Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Aluminum – Freshwater 2018
- Human Health Ambient Water Quality Criteria: 2015 Update
- Human Health Recreational Ambient Water Quality Criteria or Swimming Advisories for Microcystins and Cylindrospermopsin – 2019





# Harmful Algal Bloom Swimming Advisories

- EPD has developed a HABs Story map available on the GAEPD website: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=6ea9e19faf84448f8f00d6ea5228d11b>
- EPD held a virtual HABs meeting with lake managers and university researchers on April 16, 2021
- EPD developed an informational flyer that can be posted by lake managers
- EPD is working with lake managers on protocol for cyanotoxin sampling and a posting procedure for swim advisories.
- Swim advisories should be posted if visual observations and sampling indicate the presence of cyanotoxins above the advisory thresholds.

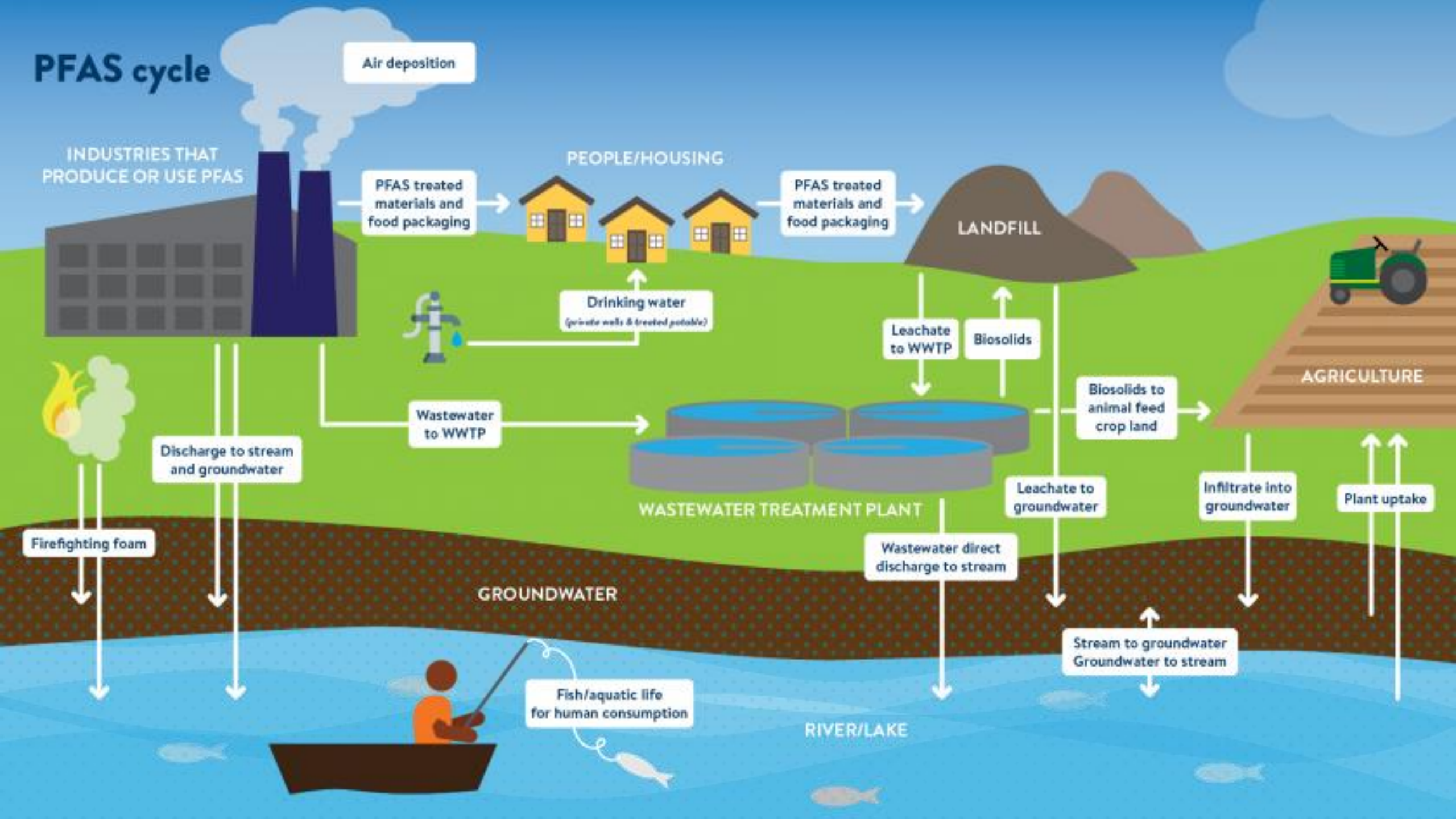




# Triennial Review Rulemaking Timeline

Date	Milestone
February 26, 2019	Kickoff Public Hearing
2021	7 Different Public & Stakeholder Meetings
October 26, 2021	Brief the DNR Board Environmental Committee
November 2021	Public Notice
December 13, 2021	Public Hearing (End of Comment 12/17)
January 28, 2022	Request DNR Board Adoption

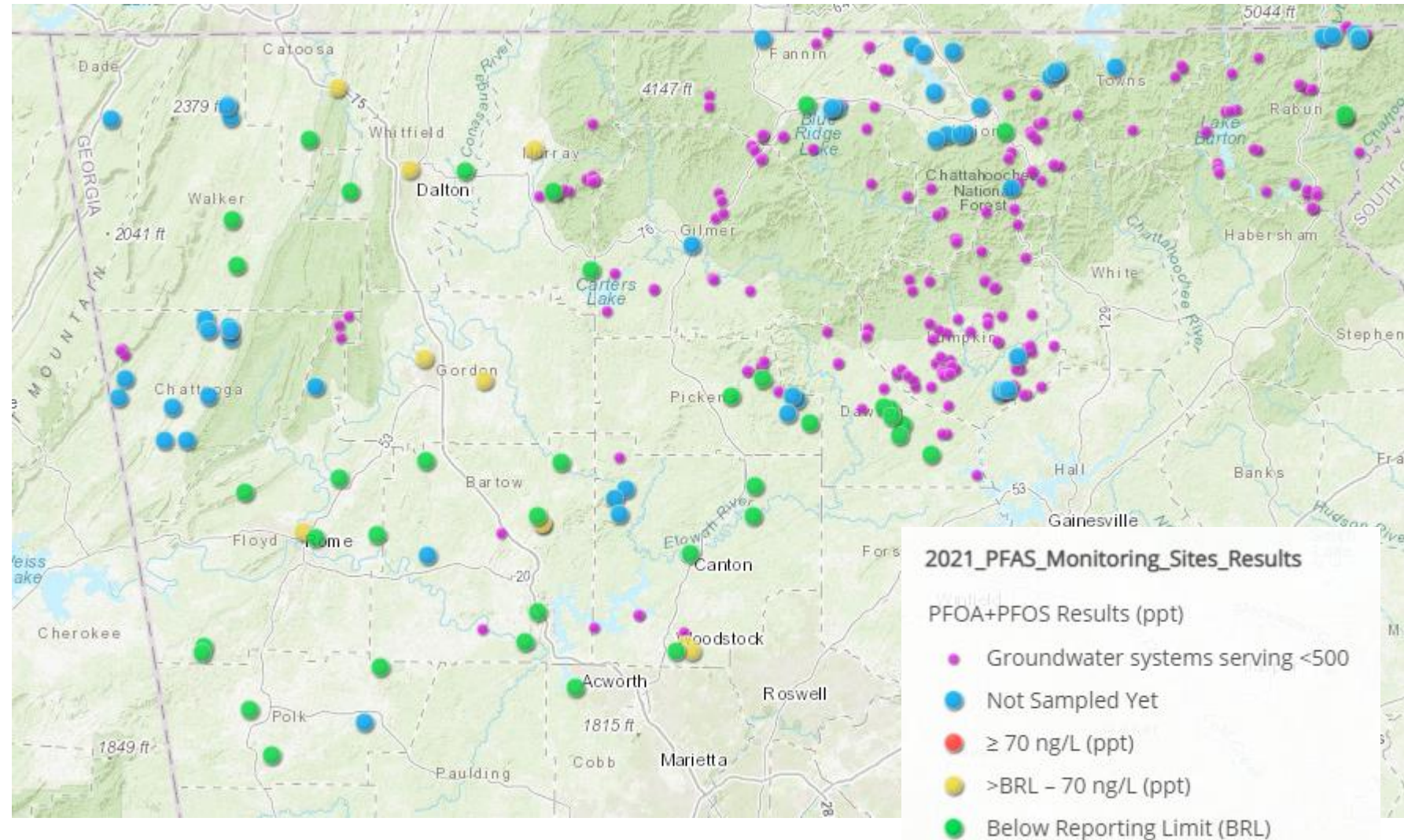
# PFAS cycle





# Ongoing PFAS Monitoring in Georgia

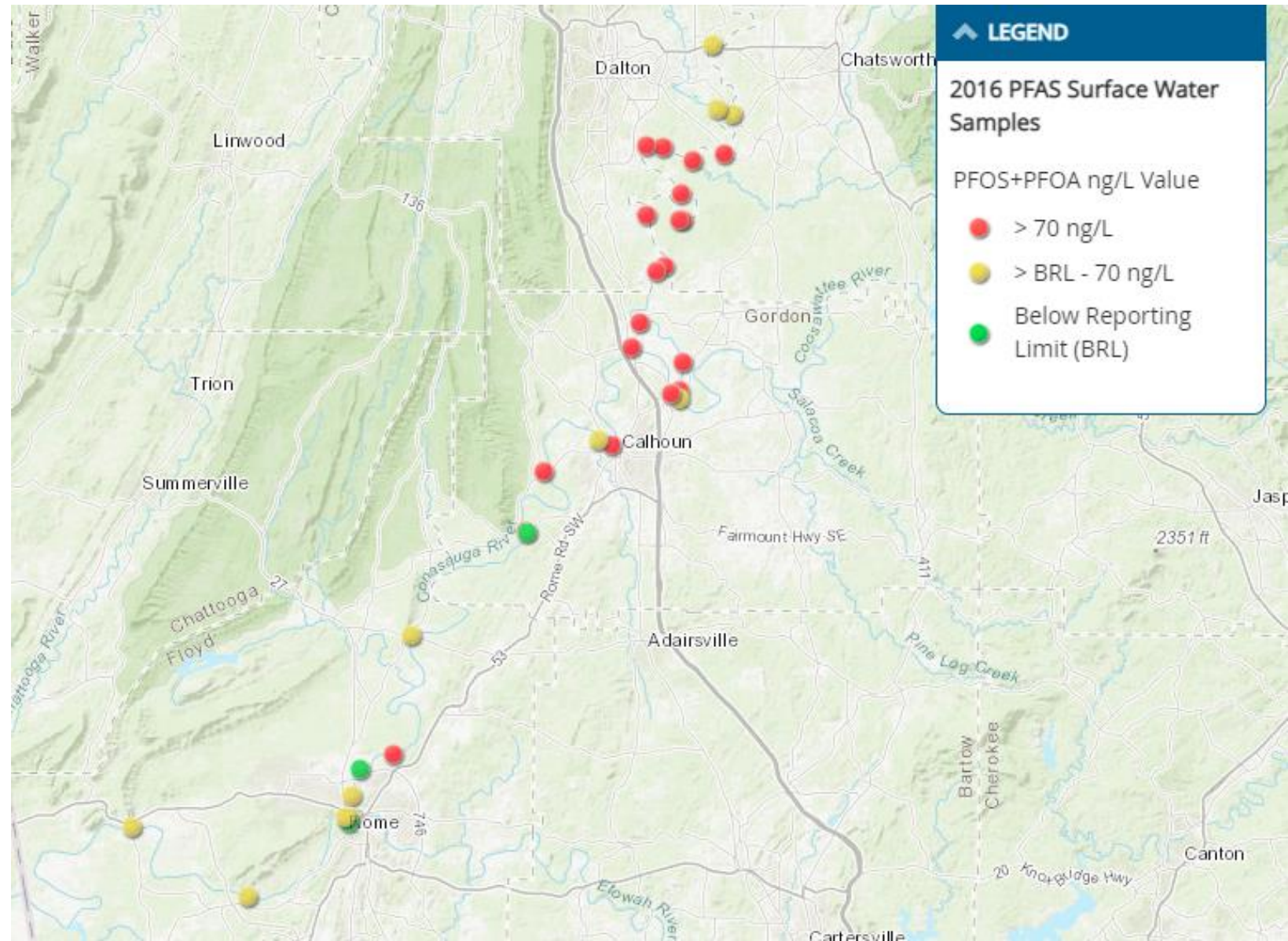
- Coosa and Tennessee basins in GA
- All SW PWS and All GW PWS > 500
- <https://gaepd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=e8f2c6a51c1c41088002350f1eabe598>





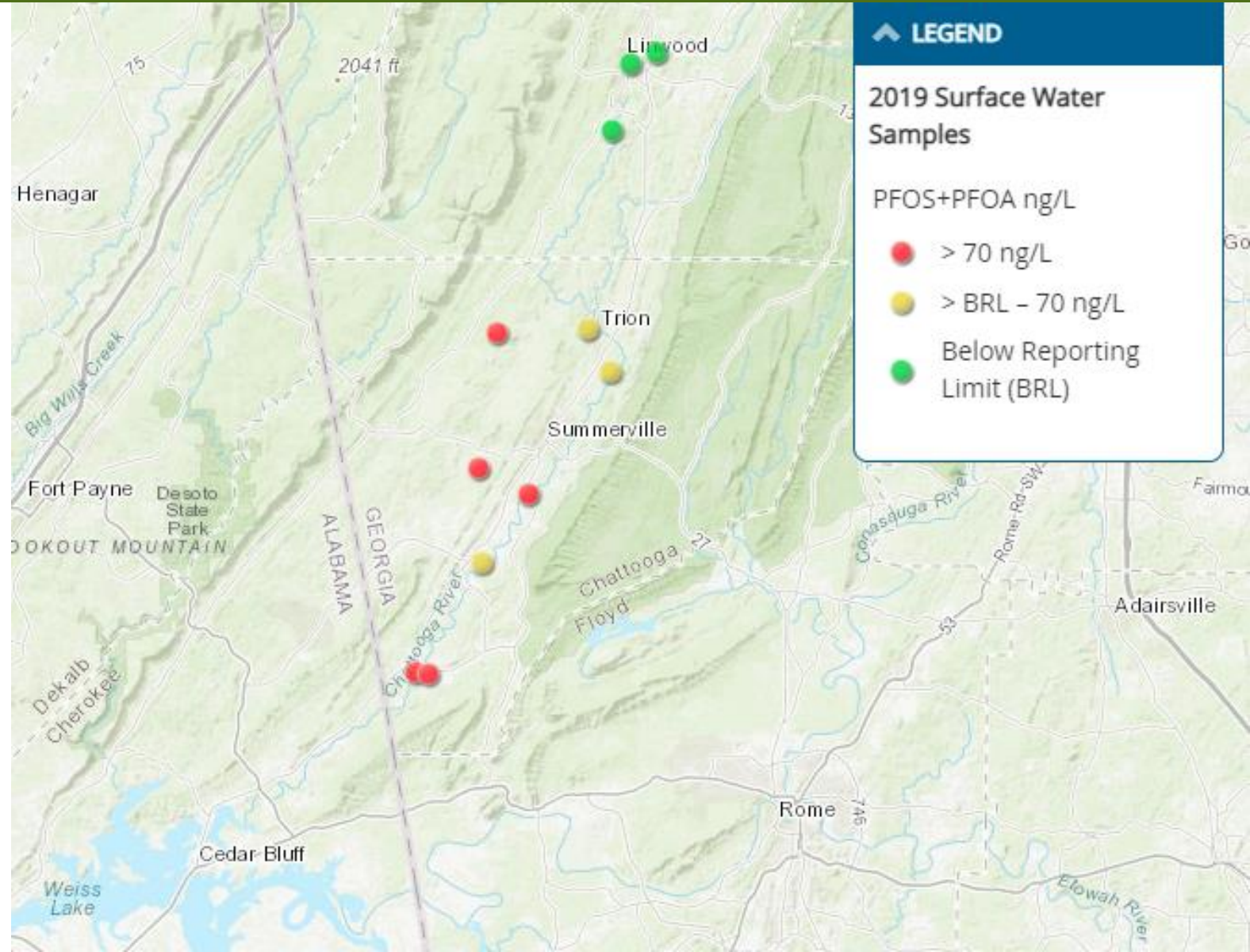
# PFAS Monitoring in Georgia's Surface Water

- June 2016
- Coosa River basin



# PFAS Monitoring in Georgia's Surface Water

- November 2019
- Chattooga River Basin down to Weiss Lake





# Thank You to GIEC Attendees

- Contact information:
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