

**Permit holders in the former 55 County Level IV area increased water use in July 2009 by 9% when compared to July 2008 Level IV water use, but reduced water use by 5% when compared to July 2007 Level II water use.**

**Background**

Although non-drought outdoor water use schedules went into effect June 10, 2009, EPD is continuing to monitor water usage of permittees who use more than 100,000 gallons per day in the former 55 county Level IV drought response area that were required to report water usage during the Level IV drought response.

**July 2009 versus July 2008 and July 2007 Water Use**

July 2009 water use by 168 permittees using more than 100,000 gallons per day increased by 9% or 63 million gallons per day when compared to July 2008. Each of these permittees was under Level IV outdoor watering restrictions in July 2008, while in July 2009, permittees were allowed to return to non-drought outdoor water use schedules. **Compared to July 2007, when Level II watering restrictions were in effect, water use in July 2009 was reduced by 5% or more than 40 million gallons per day.** In July 2009, 63 permittees either decreased or did not increase their water use compared to July 2008, while 104 increased water use when compared to July 2008, and 1 failed to report (Martin). However, compared to July 2007, 97 permittees either decreased or did not increase their water use in July 2009 and 70 actually increased water use. The fact that water use increased slightly in some cases and actually decreased in others demonstrates Georgian's continued commitment to water conservation efforts. Table 1 provides a summary of water use by river basin.

Table 1  
Summary of July 2009 versus July 2007 and 2008 Level IV Water Use by Basin (MGD)

BASIN	JULY 2007 WATER USE (MGD)	JULY 2008 WATER USE (MGD)	JULY 2009 WATER USE (MGD)	JULY 2009 WATER USE DECREASE COMPARED TO JULY 2007 (MGD)	JULY 2009 WATER USE PERCENT DECREASE COMPARED TO JULY 2007	JULY 2009 WATER USE INCREASE COMPARED TO JULY 2008 (MGD)	JULY 2009 WATER USE PERCENT INCREASE COMPARED TO JULY 2008
Chattahoochee and Flint	480.19	408.72	455.30	24.89	5.2%	46.58	11.4%
Coosa, Tallapoosa and Tennessee	204.11	183.66	193.24	10.87	5.3%	9.58	5.2%
Oconee and Ocmulgee	105.71	95.00	101.76	3.95	3.7%	6.76	7.1%
Savannah	14.22	13.64	13.78	0.44	3.1%	0.14	1.0%
All Basins	804.23	701.02	764.08	40.15	5.0%	63.06	9.0%